



METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

SERVING LAS CRUCES, DOÑA ANA COUNTY, AND MESILLA

P.O. BOX 20000 | LAS CRUCES NM | 88004
PHONE (575) 528-3222 | FAX (575) 528-3155
<http://mesillavalleympo.org>

MESILLA VALLEY METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN FACILITIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

AGENDA

The following is the agenda for the Mesilla Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization's (MPO) Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee meeting to be held on **May 17, 2016 at 5:00 p.m.** in the **Doña Ana Commission Chambers, 845 Motel Boulevard**, Las Cruces, New Mexico. Meeting packets are available on the [Mesilla Valley MPO website](#).

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1. **CALL TO ORDER** _____ **Chair**
2. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA** _____ **Chair**
3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** _____ **Chair**
 - 3.1. April 19, 2016 _____
4. **PUBLIC COMMENT** _____ **Chair**
5. **DISCUSSION ITEMS** _____
 - 5.1. Missouri/Roadrunner Study Corridor Presentation _____ **BHI**
 - 5.2. City of Las Cruces Downtown Presentation _____ **CLC Staff**
 - 5.3. Committee Training - Committee Responsibilities _____ **MPO Staff**
6. **COMMITTEE and STAFF COMMENTS** _____
 - 6.1. MPO Staff Update: _____ **MPO Staff**
 - 6.2. Local Projects update _____ **CLC, DAC, TOM, NMSU Staff**
 - 6.3. NMDOT Projects update _____ **NMDOT Staff**
7. **PUBLIC COMMENT** _____ **Chair**
8. **ADJOURNMENT** _____ **Chair**

1 **MESILLA VALLEY METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION**
2 **BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN FACILITIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE**
3

4 The following are minutes for the meeting of the Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities
5 Advisory Committee of the Mesilla Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)
6 which was held April 19, 2016 at 5:00 p.m. in Commission Chambers at Dona Ana
7 County Government Building, 845 Motel Blvd., Las Cruces, New Mexico.
8

9 **MEMBERS PRESENT:** George Pearson, Chair (City of Las Cruces Citizen Rep)
10 Ashleigh Curry (Town of Mesilla Citizen Rep)
11 Andrew Bencomo (Ped. Community Rep)
12 Maggie Billings (Bicycle Community Rep.)
13 Jamie Lakey (NMSU proxy for Mark Leisher)
14 James Nunez (City of Las Cruces Rep)
15 Gabriel Rochelle (Bicycle Community Rep)
16 Samuel Paz (Dona Ana County)
17 David Shearer (NMSU - Environmental Safety)
18 Lance Shepan (Mesilla Marshall's Department)
19

20 **MEMBERS ABSENT:** Jolene Herrera (NMDOT)
21

22 **STAFF PRESENT:** Tom Murphy (MPO)
23 Andrew Wray (MPO)
24 Michael McAdams (MPO)
25 Zachary Taraschi (MPO)
26

27 **OTHERS PRESENT:** Len Paulozzi
28 SooGyu Lee (CLC)
29 Becky Baum, Recording Secretary, RC Creations, LLC
30

31 **1. CALL TO ORDER (5:02 p.m.)**
32

33 Pearson: I guess we're close enough. So it looks like it's 5:02 so I'll call this meeting
34 of the Mesilla Valley Bicycle/Pedestrian Facilities Advisory Committee to
35 order.
36

37 **2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**
38

39 Pearson: Do we have a motion to approve the agenda as presented?
40

41 Rochelle: So moved.
42

43 Pearson: Gabriel moved.
44

45 Curry: Second.
46

1 Pearson: All in favor accepting the agenda as presented, "aye."

2

3 MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY.

4

5 Pearson: Any opposed?

6

7 **3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

8

9 **3.1 February 16, 2015**

10

11 Pearson: Next is Approval of Minutes. Is there any discussion or comments on the
12 minutes as presented? Hearing none, I'll accept a motion to approve the
13 minutes as presented.

14

15 Rochelle: So moved.

16

17 Curry: Second.

18

19 Pearson: We have a motion and a second so all in favor, "aye."

20

21 MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY.

22

23 Pearson: Any opposed? Hearing none, that passes.

24

25 **4. PUBLIC COMMENT**

26

27 Pearson: Now we're on Public Comment. Any members of the public wish to
28 address us? Seeing none.

29

30 **5. ACTION ITEMS**

31

32 **5.1 Amendments to the 2016-2021 Transportation Improvement Program**

33

34 Pearson: Move on to Action Items. But now we have a couple of members that are
35 coming in so we'll pause for a moment.

36

37 MEETING PAUSED TO GET ORGANIZED.

38

39 Pearson: Okay. Now that we've got a couple of additional members have come in
40 and we rushed through some of the business already but why don't we go
41 through and introduce everybody, everybody give their name and who
42 they represent and as we go through, we have a new, one new member to
43 present. Why don't we start down here on this end.

44

45 Paz: Samuel Paz, Dona Ana County Planning Department.

46

1 Billings: Maggie Billings, Bicycle Community Representative.
2
3 Lakey: Jamie Lakey, I'm proxying for Mark Leisher.
4
5 Shepan: Lance Shepan, Town of Mesilla.
6
7 Curry: Ashleigh Curry, Mesilla Community Representative.
8
9 Nunez: James Nunez, City of Las Cruces Representative.
10
11 Shearer: David Shearer, NMSU Representative.
12
13 Rochelle: Gabriel Rochelle, Bicycle Community Rep.
14
15 Pearson: Did that pick up?
16
17 Baum: No.
18
19 Rochelle: No, so it, sorry. Gabriel Rochelle, Bicycle Community Representative.
20
21 Bencomo: Andrew Bencomo, Pedestrian Community Representative.
22
23 Pearson: And I'm George Pearson, City of Las Cruces Citizen Representative and
24 Chair of the Committee. We went through some of the quick usual
25 business. We'll just check, doesn't look like we have any other members
26 of the public so we'll go on to our Action Items now. We have a, a TIP
27 amendment.
28

29 ANDREW WRAY GAVE HIS PRESENTATION.
30

31 Wray: Ms. Herrera is unable to be with us tonight but she e-mailed me a
32 statement regarding this that she would like read into the record: This
33 particular amendment is a three, a \$3 million amendment being added to
34 accommodate elements of the Amador Proximo. NMDOT is still working
35 out the details of the scope and road transfer agreement with the City and
36 should have more information in the upcoming months.
37

38 ANDREW WRAY CONTINUED HIS PRESENTATION.
39

40 Wray: Again Ms. Herrera e-mailed me a statement she would like read into the
41 record: These additional funds are being added to cover the cost of the
42 new retaining wall that will be built to hold up the existing retaining wall.
43 This project is now scheduled to let in October 2016 with construction
44 likely starting in, or excuse me, in January of 2017. I will stand now for
45 any questions.
46

1 Pearson: Any Committee Members have any questions? So the Amador Proximo
2 elements, that's, they're going to put in the, the side access roads and the
3 protected bike lanes?
4

5 Wray: I don't know the extent that they're going to be accommodating. I know
6 that they have been negotiating with the City regarding that but DOT's
7 position has been that they can't afford the full build-out that the, the
8 Proximo called for.
9

10 Pearson: Right.

11
12 Wray: So I, I don't have that information.
13

14 Pearson: Yeah. I think this Committee would be interested in that when that
15 becomes available. I do remember \$3 million as being the, the amount
16 that would be needed for that so maybe that is enough to do that full build-
17 out. Any, go ahead.
18

19 Nunez: Mr. Chair. I'm, I'm just getting a little more involved in learning some of
20 the processes for requesting funds. Just went to the Cradle to Grave
21 Training and we're going to have the NMDOT Conference here at the Las
22 Cruces Convention Center this week but I did, one thing did catch my
23 attention and that was to be sure when we are asking for funds to, that we
24 include the cost for designs and for taxes, New Mexico gross receipts tax.
25 So as I learn more about how we fill in our forms and our requests I'll, I'll
26 make sure that I flag that for myself to look toward but I just making a, so
27 everybody here kind of knows that too.
28

29 Pearson: Okay. So no further comments. I hear a, a motion to accept the TIP as
30 presented?
31

32 Nunez: I'll make the motion.
33

34 Curry: Second.
35

36 Pearson: Having a motion, all in favor, "aye."
37

38 MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY.
39

40 Pearson: Any opposed? So that item passes.
41

42 **5.2 Multi-Use Loop Trail Alternative Selection** 43

44 Pearson: So we're on to 5.2, actually I have a question for staff. In the packet that I
45 downloaded last, the agenda has a 5.3 for the UPWP but the paper that I
46 picked up, the agenda does not have that so what agenda?

1
2 Wray: The, the one that we have is the 5.3. We must've printed the wrong
3 agenda today in error. We apologize.
4
5 Pearson: Okay so the ...
6
7 Wray: Yeah, there is a 5.3.
8
9 Pearson: The 5.3 is included? Okay. So we're at 5.2 now.
10
11 ANDREW WRAY GAVE HIS PRESENTATION.
12
13 Bencomo: Yes, Chair. I have questions. So I'm just curious and I, I wasn't able to
14 attend the meeting, the Policy Committee meeting. What exactly are the
15 issues with using the laterals and why are they not going to be used in the
16 foreseeable future? What, is it just lack of movement, lack of the will to
17 move on that, to try to work with EBID? Or is it EBID themselves?
18
19 Murphy: Mr. Chair, Mr. Bencomo. The, the heart of the issue is that the, we've
20 spoke with both Town of Mesilla staff and with Dona Ana County staff and
21 they advised us that they've become, that they've come to an impasse
22 with EBID as far as getting a MOA, MOU in place that would allow the, the
23 trail agreements to be put in place. I think probably it's, it's a, you know
24 it's, it's a combined sticking point of indemnity and, and commitment to
25 maintenance on those facilities but since neither, neither the Town nor the
26 County is willing to move forward with making a request to, to do trail
27 development on those laterals MPO staff believes that we need to
28 downgrade it in our plans from, from our top priorities to a lower tier
29 priority since the solution does not seem that it's, it's imminent.
30
31 Pearson: So the City has already taken that extra step and done, done whatever the
32 roadblocks that EBID might have.
33
34 Murphy: Mr. Chair. Yes, the City has in the past had an MOU. It, it's currently
35 lapsed but it's something that the, the City's Risk Management section has
36 advised us that they don't view it as a, as a deal-killer, you know the
37 maintenance and indemnity issues. So we expected that MOU to be
38 renewed at some point. Further when we, we spoke to the, the Policy
39 Committee and the elected officials in particular they, they just advised us
40 to move forward on the, on the roadway sections.
41
42 Pearson: Okay.
43
44 Bencomo: So it, yeah I have more questions, sorry. So when you say "elected
45 officials" the, was that the Board of Commissioners said that, the, the

1 Trustees of Mesilla said that, when you say "elected officials" what do you
2 mean by that?
3

4 Murphy: By "elected officials" I mean the, the elected officials that serve on the
5 MPO's Policy Committee, the three trust, three Town Trustees on there,
6 there are three County Commissioners, three City Councilors.
7

8 Bencomo: Okay.
9

10 Murphy: And the NMDOT District Engineer.
11

12 Bencomo: Okay so it's just the representatives, not, not "just" but the representatives
13 on those Committees which are not speaking for the Trustee Board or the
14 Board of Commissioners so, I mean I, I understand at this point I think that
15 Policy Committee has spoken and, and it's going to happen. I don't think
16 we even have a, a, a way to change that at this point. But I, I feel very
17 strongly that this needs to be resolved. The City is doing it and I
18 understand the maintenance portion of it is probably, obviously there's the
19 indemnity portion of it but I think the maintenance portion's probably the,
20 the, one of the bigger pieces, who's going to maintain that and how. I
21 think there is the ability to do that with these governmental agencies. I just
22 think the will to do that may not be there. So I personally would hope that
23 this Committee, if we feel that using the laterals is, is a viable option
24 which, and we're looking at, at the Union process here, if we go down
25 Union we have to deal with a lateral anyway or jump to the other side of
26 the road. If we go down 28 and, and be, even be without a choice of
27 University and Union, if we go down 28 and then turn left at Calle Norte, I
28 just don't think that's possible. There's no right-of-way available from 28
29 on Calle Norte for about a quarter of a mile past that first section of
30 houses there. The houses are right up against the road on both sides. I, I
31 just am not sure that there's even the ability to do that there as far as road
32 widths and things so I'm not sure how, how that's going to occur. But I, I,
33 I would hope that, maybe I'm the only one on this Committee that feels that
34 those laterals are, are very valuable and could be a huge benefit to our
35 community and City, County, Mesilla, everywhere. I just, I, I hate this
36 discussion that it's not, or going to be downgraded but I understand the
37 process at this point. It's, it's just the way it's going to be for now. Maybe
38 it can be changed later. Thank you Mr. Chair.
39

40 Curry: Mr. Chair. May I add in. I would like to second Mr. Bencomo's thoughts
41 on that and, and, and I wonder has EBID said that they won't do it, I mean
42 has there been any discussion beyond ... coming from EBID saying, "We
43 won't do it unless we have this or that." You know I, I'm just wondering if
44 it's just a personality thing right now, that there are personalities that don't
45 want it versus it really is an impracticality. Because I do look at how well it
46 works through the rest of the City, the City Loop works beautifully on the

1 EBID trails. And again to kind of discount that right now, I realize that
2 there may be six, six people who saying it isn't but is it really ruled out?
3

4 Murphy: Mr. Chair, Ms. Curry. We believe EBID has consistently maintained that,
5 that they're willing to enter into, you know into these MOUs provided you
6 know that the entity that requests it take over the maintenance and, and
7 do the indemnification. We, the MPO staff's perspective is that the
8 sticking point is on the count, count side and the, and the County side is
9 they have not, they have not come to the, to the same conclusion that the,
10 that the City Legal and the City Risk has come to that it's a negligible
11 increase in, in exposure and, and yes we'll take on that indemnity. We did
12 you know and you know we you know obviously have no control over
13 County, County staff or Town staff. We did raise, raise it at the Policy
14 Committee where the elected officials from those jurisdictions are aware of
15 the issue and if they feel strongly enough about it they, then they can
16 enter into those discussions within their own government. That being said
17 the Policy Committee thought it'd be more expedient at this point to push
18 forward with a roadway solution. We're not, you know we're not proposing
19 taking the EBID facilities off at all. We're just downgrading their, their
20 priorities from you know a couple of them were Tier 1 and this is, this is a
21 way that we communicate to the public that there's an issue with that so
22 these are not going to be on the short list for becoming trails right-of-way
23 so, or you know really you know ...
24

25 Curry: Right.
26

27 Murphy: Really soon. So I, I think, I think you know we agree that those, you know
28 some of those EBI facilities would be terrific additions to the trail system
29 but there, there's a lot of issues to work out so while those are getting out,
30 being worked out we lower the expectations of the general public.
31

32 Curry: Thank, thank you very much Mr. Murphy. That was a, a good explanation
33 of things and as the Town Representative for the Town of Mesilla I'm
34 going to go and talk to you know the powers that be at the Town and just
35 see if, if maybe they'd listen to the consideration of revisiting this, this topic
36 because I'm looking at the, at the long-range picture. The long-range
37 picture, it's a really usable facility and in 20 years' time that would be an
38 amazing place that would really add to our community. As, as a cyclist
39 both recreationally and commuting I think it's so much nicer to be out of
40 traffic whereas these other two options you're still in traffic. As the Safe
41 Routes to School Coordinator I would feel much safer putting kids on a
42 multiuse trail rather than on a roadway facility as well. So I'm thinking you
43 know the big picture is this sort of resolvable issue so I'll take it upon
44 myself to go at least to the Town of Mesilla and talk to, talk to them about
45 maybe you know a little bit further into the details.

1 But if I may I had a couple other comments and thoughts that I
2 wanted to ask and make. So first off the Strava data counts, again I think
3 that you're seeing much greater cycle, cycling usage on University Avenue
4 because it's a safer place to ride your bike. University's a horrible street to
5 ride your bike as I know from you know near misses with school buses but
6 so I think that as far as using that as strong data I think the data only
7 shows where cyclists feel safest, not necessarily where if it were safe they
8 would use one over the other. So I don't think there's necessarily more
9 cycling traffic coming down Union. It's just that that's a safer road to, to
10 bike on because there's less vehicular traffic. So I just wanted to make
11 that point. I also wanted to see if any of these things could be, could TAP
12 funding, could the Rails to Trails funding be accessible if, if the Town of
13 Mesilla, the County, the City wanted to apply to be able to get design
14 funding or is there other foreseen funding that would fund the design and
15 implementation of this?
16

17 Wray: Mr. Chair, Ms. Curry. Yes, that is the reason why we've been pushing this
18 so hard so fast is to get it in time for the TAP funding. It is possible that
19 other sources of funding may become available. Mr. Doolittle, the District
20 1 Engineer last week on the record said that NMDOT has looked at
21 pursuing funding for additional phases of study and then potential
22 implementation on University but they have nothing secured yet. They've
23 just examined the possibility intellectually. So other sources of funding
24 may come available but yes, we've been pushing this hard this year
25 because the TAP cycle that has now arrived.
26

27 Curry: Thank you very much.
28

29 Nunez: Yes I, I agree with a lot of what's been said. I appreciate your comments.
30 That's a good idea, kudos to you Mr. Bencomo for the, even trying to
31 attempt to get to, close to those laterals. You persuaded me in the last
32 conversation we had of, hanging over the plans there. But what I wanted
33 to ask was, is if you could go back to the map a little bit and maybe kind of
34 walk me through a little bit ...
35

36 Wray: Which map?
37

38 Nunez: The map there, that'll work, kind of, if you can, cause I notice that you had
39 quite a bit more traffic I think you said to the east on the one versus the
40 other plan ...
41

42 Wray: Let me ...
43

44 Nunez: Like 10,000 versus ...
45

46 Wray: Let me go back to ...

1
2 Nunez: Five thousand.
3
4 Wray: I think this would be more, I think this would be more ...
5
6 Nunez: Oh, that'll work. Yeah.
7
8 Wray: Illustrative. Yes. The, this portion of Union had 10,000 over 10,000
9 AADT. This portion of Union had just slightly over 2,000 AADT.
10
11 Nunez: And compared to the other option also.
12
13 Wray: University was pretty consistent, six, five to six thousand both sides, let
14 me just go back to that slide, yeah.
15
16 Nunez: Right. Yeah I notice the 10,000 versus 6,000 is what I was kind of wanting
17 to see the difference there, and the section of road, the distance. So if
18 you can go back to the map please and also show me, walk me through a
19 little bit through the Town of Mesilla versus County Road property or
20 sections.
21
22 Wray: The roadway itself is actually an NMDOT facility but it is in Town of
23 Mesilla. This portion here it crosses into County, well actually I'm not sure
24 where the ownership lies because we have this portion of the city that's
25 down here but then we have this bit of the county so I, this portion here
26 would be County. I'm not sure who the ownership is along here and then
27 it would be City from this portion here and Soo might actually be able to, to
28 speak, to speak to that. This portion is City here. We, we do have the
29 Traffic Engineer from City here so he can answer some questions as well,
30 put him on the spot.
31
32 Nunez: No this helps a lot. With the light blue I can see the City now, I can see
33 the County, I can see this, the Town of Mesilla. And then I guess, I know
34 you worked through this but I know, since this looks like the, the, the route
35 that we'll have to take based on the obstacles we're facing, what ought to
36 mitigate some of that, the concerns on, they talk about properties being
37 close. I mean you got some path there, right. Is that not right, that section
38 of pedestrian path, is that correct?
39
40 Wray: Yes. There's a multiuse facility that exists along about that stretch.
41
42 Nunez: Right. Okay.
43
44 Wray: Right there.
45
46 Nunez: That helps me. All right. Thanks for going over that.

1
2 Curry: Mr. Chair, Mr. Wray. I have one more question. Is this, are, are you
3 considering doing this as in-road facility, like sort of bike facility or was it a
4 separate standing multiuse path like that section on Union?
5
6 Wray: The, the expressed goal at the beginning is really to have as much
7 separate facility as possible there. Even if we were utilizing laterals there
8 would've had to have been points of compromise. On NM-28 at this
9 moment in time for both of these options staff is envisioning just an in-road
10 facility potentially designated as, "Hey this is the point that connects from
11 here to here." So at this point we are, it, it's our understanding that there
12 will have to be some in-road facilities incorporated into it but the goal at
13 the beginning was to have as many separated facilities as possible, a
14 separate, a separate path.
15
16 Curry: Thank you. Cause I, I'm thinking in keeping with the rest of the multiuse
17 trail the, the loop trail that goes around, it's almost exclusively, I'm trying to
18 think, almost exclusively multi, off-trail, I mean at the ...
19
20 Wray: Yes.
21
22 Curry: A multiuse trail as opposed to in-road. So again I mean it's back to that
23 thought of the use of the laterals. I hate to give up this idea that the
24 laterals are a possibility cause it doesn't really complete the loop. I mean
25 if you're a family out for a bike ride you're not going to be wanting to bike
26 your family down NM-28 in-road facility with your you know five-year-old in
27 tow. So I, I, I still just have that vision if if we're going to do it let, you know
28 do it right or do this with the thought in mind that later down the road we
29 could add the laterals if something were to change.
30
31 Wray: Mr. Chair, Ms. Curry. That is an excellent point. In, in doing this we're in
32 no way excluding any sort of future work that could be done on any sort of
33 facility. This, this process has been driven by wanting to, the timeliness
34 because we have the portion of Triviz that's now going to go down south
35 of University, the completion of La Llorona Trail and this, the two-year
36 funding cycle where if we miss this one it's not going to come up again for
37 a while, kind of a perfect storm of, a, a window of opportunity here to, to
38 accomplish, to accomplish something is really why this has been driven.
39 It, it has moved very quickly. It has moved very quickly.
40
41 Curry: Thank you.
42
43 Pearson: But even if we designate this route we might only find funding to do the
44 University portion and then might be another two years and by then
45 maybe we can get some, maybe the Rio Grande Valley Trail will come up
46 and we can connect further south on that perhaps or something like that.

1
2 Wray: That, that is an excellent point Mr. Chair. If, if we amend it once we can, if
3 circumstances change we can do it again.
4
5 Billings: I have a question. Since I'm new to this Committee could someone briefly
6 explain "the laterals" and what that means?
7
8 Wray: Yes Mr. Chair, Ms. Billings. The laterals are EBID drainage facilities that
9 they use for moving irrigation water to the farmers in the community.
10 That's basically in a nutshell what they are used for.
11
12 Billings: The only problem I can see with those is road bikes but I mean that's a
13 really minor group that can't go on those trails so I think those would be ...
14
15 Curry: But the trails are paved.
16
17 Pearson: It would be ...
18
19 Billings: Oh.
20
21 Curry: It's a paved trail.
22
23 Billings: Those ones are paved? Okay.
24
25 Curry: Yeah.
26
27 Billings: I've only been on ...
28
29 Curry: That's what we're talking about, doing paved trails.
30
31 Billings: Oh. Okay then I think that sounds like a great option. Okay. Thank you.
32
33 Bencomo: Mr. Chair.
34
35 Pearson: Yes Andrew.
36
37 Bencomo: Sorry. I know I talk a lot but, so a couple more items, as far as the Strava
38 data I would be very careful with that. I mean that, Strava is, is, is very
39 popular with bicyclists but it's popular with bicyclists that are like hardcore
40 bicyclists like Ashleigh.
41
42 Curry: I don't use it.
43
44 Bencomo: But, so, as long as we, and a lot of runners use it too. As long as we
45 always try to keep in mind as the, as the, this Committee and then I hope
46 that the Policy Committee and the TAC would do the same thing, when we

1 talk about these facilities if we could always keep in mind that we're not
2 just talking about hardcore bicyclists, hardcore runners, we're talking
3 about families. We're trying to get families out there with little kids and I
4 would never, as Ashleigh said, I would never take my little ones when they
5 were small on any of these roadways, any in-road facilities. It's, it's, you
6 don't know what they're going to do as far as little ones. So those
7 separate facilities are very important and that's one of the main reasons I
8 am such an advocate for trying to use these laterals. It separates them
9 from the traffic. There'll always be the bicyclists that are going to zip down
10 the main roads and their, they have no fear of doing that and they ride all
11 over the place but we need to look at families that are going to be the
12 future bicyclists and runners and people that are using these facilities. So
13 if we can always keep that in mind and maybe push for the other
14 committees to keep that in mind also as we're doing this, but Strava is, is,
15 is more, used I think more by kind of the more hardcore users. And then
16 the other comment I wanted to make was if, if we're looking at these two
17 options I would go probably myself and maybe I, I'm, I'm thinking greedily
18 here trying to grab as much as possible. Option B would be Union if there
19 were funds available for that because we know that Option A, University
20 from Main to 28's already going to get done, correct that they're ...

21
22 Wray: I ...

23
24 Bencomo: NMDOT's already going to, there's a project in place to widen that road,
25 correct?

26
27 Wray: Mr. Chair, Mr. Bencomo. That is not correct.

28
29 Bencomo: No.

30
31 Wray: There's no, no guarantee that that is going to get done.

32
33 Bencomo: Okay.

34
35 Wray: They're just investigating the possibility but there's no guarantee.

36
37 Bencomo: Okay. But ...

38
39 Pearson: The planning to allow it as, made a step with the University Corridor study
40 but funding for it I think is still ...

41
42 Wray: Nonexistent.

43
44 Pearson: I think the Governor's veto got out last session.

45

1 Bencomo: Okay. So let me, let me restate that then, I was incorrect. I think there's
2 more opportunity for that one to get done anyway. They're already do,
3 they've already done planning on it. We, that's, that was the presentation
4 we got from Bohannan Huston was it not? We got a presentation on, and
5 we went through the process of looking at options there and selecting
6 what we felt was going to be best for that section from Main to 28 so it
7 appears that there's already traction and movement there and I would, I
8 would still support Union also because there's just less traffic on that road
9 than there is University, less automobile traffic. So ...
10
11 Pearson: You're right. I think ...
12
13 Bencomo: That'd be my comment. Thank you.
14
15 Pearson: That wanted to be, right along what I wanted to talk about. The University
16 Corridor identified only a portion of it would be able to support a multiuse
17 path and a portion of it would require in-road facilities and the loop trail in
18 my mind isn't complete unless it's 100% multiuse path. The Union side
19 hasn't had that level of planning but is there room to put the multiuse path
20 for the entire length down to NM-28?
21
22 Wray: Mr. Chair. There are places where the right-of-way does pinch kind of
23 tight. I'm, it, in my non-engineering opinion so please don't hold me to
24 this, my non-engineering opinion something could be fit in but I don't know
25 where the property lines lie exactly.
26
27 Pearson: Right. We haven't had ...
28
29 Wray: So we have not ...
30
31 Pearson: The planning study or ...
32
33 Wray: We have, this is all very preliminary. We're just trying to draw the line on
34 the map to justify future, future planning.
35
36 Pearson: But we know that we can't get 100% multiuse on University and we think
37 we may not be able to but we think we may, there's still a chance that we
38 could on Union so with that in mind I would support the Union side. Any
39 other Committee Members?
40
41 Shepan: Yes.
42
43 Pearson: Lance.
44
45 Shepan: On your data for vehicle traffic west of Main Street, is that what was
46 shown for the month?

1
2 Wray: It's a ...
3
4 Shepan: Or is that a day?
5
6 Wray: It, it's an AADT which is Averaged Annual Daily Trips so it's, what we do is
7 we go out and we put the boxes out for 48 hours. The, the data is then
8 taken in by staff and sent up to Santa Fe to NMDOT up there. They apply
9 what they call Seasonal Adjusted Factors to that data to, to normalize it for
10 the rest of the year and then that's what's sent back to us as an AADT. So
11 that's, it, it's, it's more of a yearly count rather than, it's supposed to
12 represent a yearly.
13
14 Pearson: It's a yearly average on ...
15
16 Wray: Yeah.
17
18 Pearson: One, one magic day.
19
20 Wray: One, one, yeah, one magic day. There may never have been that many
21 cars appear on the road at that particular time due to they're applying the
22 formula to it in Santa Fe but that's, that's the basis of the data.
23
24 Pearson: And since you use that same formula across the entire system that gives
25 consistency as to where there are cars and where there are not cars.
26
27 Shepan: It's just, I know with Zia Middle School parents picking up and it's
28 predominantly during the pick-up times, we can have anywhere from 100
29 to 200 vehicles on University and if weather's bad like the hailstorm we
30 had in October, I'm willing to bet there was 500 vehicles out there in an
31 hour time span. So the University Corridor needs, really needs to get
32 done just for the safety of the kids, just because of that traffic flow there.
33 And then on Calle del Norte I don't know what, cause like you said the
34 right-of-ways are either nonexistent, I know there's a couple of spots that
35 there's barely enough room to park a car. Cause we sit out there and run
36 radar and you couldn't open up the other door.
37
38 Wray: On, on this portion of Calle del Norte nothing else is possible but putting
39 up a sign. Nothing else is possible but putting up a sign. Nothing else is
40 possible. I'll ...
41
42 Shepan: Right.
43
44 Wray: Flatly state that to everyone. Nothing else is possible right there. That is
45 a point that, where we will have to compromise. There's nothing else that
46 can be done if we're going to use that spot.

1
2 Shepan: And I don't think, until you get down to Calle de Oeste before something
3 could really start to be done and then it would be primarily on the north
4 side, wouldn't it Ashleigh?
5
6 Curry: The one before Calle de Oeste, I think just on the other side of the
7 irrigation ...
8
9 Baum: You're not on the microphone.
10
11 Curry: Sorry about that. I think just on the other side of the EBID lateral, we, that
12 would be a place that you'd be able to start going west.
13
14 Shepan: Cause there's a lateral ...
15
16 Rochelle: Right, we could, which is to say a couple blocks down Norte, that's all.
17
18 Curry: Right.
19
20 Rochelle: Where the lateral is.
21
22 Curry: Right.
23
24 Rochelle: Oeste, I live on Oeste ...
25
26 Curry: Right.
27
28 Rochelle: And that's, yeah, the, you could do something before that but, but
29 Andrew's right. There's really nothing that can be done just by the traffic
30 light.
31
32 Shepan: That's all.
33
34 Rochelle: But could I continue with that? I, I, I mean given the fact that we have to, I
35 guess there's no alternative but to use Norte to connect ultimately with the
36 La Llorona Trail but I'm also wondering, I get, does Mesilla own that
37 section?
38
39 Wray: That is an NMDOT facility.
40
41 Rochelle: It is, okay.
42
43 Wray: It's NM2, it's NM2-something-or-other.
44
45 Rochelle: Okay. Yeah, just, cause, I mean they just rebuilt the levee the last year
46 which has made it even more difficult if you're riding an off-road bike to get

1 down to the trail. It's practically a quarter of a mile from Norte to the trail
2 so that's all got to be, the paving there has to be figured in for ultimately
3 completing a multiuse trail.
4

5 Murphy: And I, I think I would add to that. I, you know the, the TAP funding that
6 we're envisioning ultimately is, isn't going to, isn't going to pay for the
7 entire thing to be done at one point. I think we're, what we're trying to do
8 is we want to designate a preferred option at this point and then start
9 looking at strategically what would be the best initial projects to do. And
10 what you suggest there, you know that might, that might be a nicely-sized
11 project for this application is extend La Llorona Trail from its end up to
12 Calle, Calle del Norte and then maybe even go up Calle del Norte till you
13 know you hit Calle de Oeste or one of the laterals because really you're
14 not going to build a lot more than something, you know something of that
15 size in any one funding cycle.
16

17 Rochelle: Thank you.
18

19 Pearson: Any Committee Members? Well this is an Action Item so we're being
20 asked to take an action on this. And I've heard a couple of suggestions for
21 Option B so I will listen to somebody to make a motion.
22

23 Bencomo: Mr. Chair. I'd like to make a motion that we accept Option B for this
24 process, not exactly what I'd hoped for but we'll move forward with what
25 we have.
26

27 Shearer: I'll second the motion.
28

29 Pearson: Okay. We have a, had a motion and a second to move forward with
30 Option B. All in favor, "aye."
31

32 MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY.
33

34 Pearson: Any opposed? Hearing none, we've completed that item.
35

36 **5.3 Recommendation of approval of FFY 2017 and FFY 2018 UPWP**

37

38 Pearson: So now we're at 5.3. Go ahead.
39

40 TOM MURPHY GAVE HIS PRESENTATION.
41

42 Pearson: Any, any Committee Members have any comments they'd wish to ask? I
43 think there isn't anything new, that this is a continuation and ...
44

45 Murphy: Yeah. The general, I mean ...
46

1 Pearson: No surprises.
2
3 Murphy: Bulk of is, is supporting our committee structures, hold, holding meetings,
4 you know, you know doing traffic counts.
5
6 Pearson: It has some important things that this Committee's interested in like the
7 Safe Routes to School Action Plan.
8
9 Murphy: Yes sir.
10
11 Curry: Yes. I appreciate that being in there. Thank you.
12
13 Pearson: So I'll hear a motion to forward, what is this, approve this to the ...
14
15 Murphy: Recommend approval.
16
17 Pearson: Recommend approval to the Policy Committee.
18
19 Curry: I'll recommend approval.
20
21 Rochelle: Second.
22
23 Pearson: We have a motion and a second. All in favor, "aye."
24
25 MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY.
26
27 Pearson: Any opposed? Hearing none, that passes.
28
29 **6. DISCUSSION ITEMS**
30
31 **6.1 Missouri/Roadrunner Study Corridor Presentation**
32
33 Pearson: So we're on to Discussion Items, 6.1.
34
35 Murphy: Mr. Chair. And I apologize, we'll have to ask to scratch this one from the
36 agenda. We had some miscommunications with the, our, our consultant
37 and they were not ready to have the presentation but we will have it for
38 you next meeting.
39
40 Pearson: Okay.
41
42 **7. COMMITTEE AND STAFF COMMENTS**
43
44 **7.1 MPO Staff Update**
45
46 Pearson: Okay. So we're on to 7.1, MPO staff update.

1
2 Murphy: Okay Mr. Chair. And I don't remember if Andrew has shared this one
3 previously but he did allude to it. We are now live with our new website.
4 The address, the address is mesillavalleympo.org and can we, he'll type it
5 in here real fast.
6
7 Rochelle: He scared me, I saw Donald Trump for a second and I thought he was on
8 this Committee.
9
10 Murphy: Make sure I'm spelling, and probably I think most of you have, have seen
11 it. We do have a greater deal of functionality with our calendar which is
12 not coming up. For example you can download, download the meeting
13 packet from the meeting date and you all know, you have that in your
14 hand so I would go, go back to other things. We have a, we have a
15 resource page where we have our, you know our core documents such as
16 the Transportation Plan including all the maps which, which we produce,
17 Trail System which we referred to this evening, our TIP which we
18 amended, our, our UPWP and so on so I invite you to, to look it over, give
19 us some, you know give us your feedback on that. It's something that I
20 think we're going to, we have a little more control over now that we have a,
21 a independent site and we can make more changes if deemed necessary
22 but we feel that we've come up with a pretty functional layout.
23
24 Pearson: Okay. I did look at it briefly.
25
26 Murphy: Oh. And, and then also well be reminded from, from, from people who
27 have more memory than I do, we have a new section and we have the
28 TAP guide and the, and the Recreational Trails guide on our site so you
29 download that and, and review it. I guess we're going to be asking for, for
30 your jurisdictions to get any proposals to us by September 23rd so we can
31 run it through the, the committee process and we are required to for,
32 forward it to NMDOT for, for ranking and an award by November 30th. So
33 this'll give us enough time to run it through this Committee, the Technical
34 Committee, and the Policy Committee.
35
36 Pearson: Okay. I did look at it earlier and you had all the previous meetings, the
37 2015, what seemed to be missing are some of the earlier 2016 meetings
38 and that's what confused me. I was looking for 2016 for the earlier
39 meetings and I think you had told me that you had, that was going to be
40 on the calendar where you could find those things so ...
41
42 Murphy: That, it, that is on Andrew's work schedule. I, I'm, I'm soaking the noodle
43 now it, you know if he's going to get it, get it here in next few days.
44
45 Pearson: Okay. And I had also asked about populating out the already-scheduled
46 meetings on the calendar even if there's nothing there so we already, the,

1 the, those dates have already been approved by the Policy Committee so
2 we know they're going to happen so.

3
4 Murphy: Right. And, and that's just one of, one of those things. It's been on
5 Andrew's schedule but it, the, it, he's, he's getting, it's, he's getting to it.

6
7 Pearson: Okay.

8
9 Murphy: I keep him too busy with other things.

10
11 Pearson: Anything else from MPO staff?

12
13 Murphy: No. That's it.

14 15 **7.2 Local Projects update**

16
17 Pearson: So we have Local Project Updates. We'll start with City.

18
19 Nunez: Yes. I was looking over our last, list of letting, letting schedule projects
20 and the bulk of all these are really maintenance and reconstruction of
21 roads. I know we have the microsurfacing on Peachtree, Mesa Grande.
22 We do have, Elks Road is under reconstruction and a lot of you have
23 noticed the Cutler with the mill and overlay on one section of Union and
24 another on Amador and we're about to do a little more work on North Del
25 Rey. There's also a lot of reconstruction of small roads throughout the city
26 that, none of these are really effecting any new shared lanes or, or, I, I did,
27 I wish Mr. Lee, he left from the Traffic Department, I was going to talk to
28 him a little bit about, or refer to him if there was any restriping or, or
29 redesignation of any lanes or anything but I'm not familiar with any. But I
30 can get with him before the next meeting.

31
32 Pearson: He did mention to me that they're doing a restriping, you might've seen it,
33 of most of the major roadways so they're just re-freshening up what's
34 there.

35
36 Curry: He, he did address it at, at a meeting that we had earlier this morning.
37 They, they did look at, every street that's getting restriped they're looking
38 at whether bike facilities can go in or not, just depending on the
39 engineering of it. So for example Union Avenue was restriped today but
40 they weren't able to put in bicycle facilities but it is being addressed and
41 looked at for every restriping.

42
43 Nunez: Well good. I'm glad we have some answers on that. Also the La Llorona
44 construction for the scope that, that's completed. And then they're, I'm not
45 sure but in a few days they're going to start on the dam trails here within a
46 few days even, I guess on that construction on the dam trails.

1
2 Pearson: Okay. Dona Ana County, do you have anything to report?
3
4 Paz: County projects along Baylor, Baylor Road and Dripping Springs will be
5 complete by June. Roadway construction should be complete by May.
6 So those are the updates. I think the, the June deadline came from some
7 vegetation requirements that they had.
8
9 Pearson: So they got pushed back a little bit.
10
11 Paz: Yeah. But the roadway portion should be complete by May.
12
13 Pearson: Town of Mesilla.
14
15 Shepan: Nothing Mr. Chair.
16
17 Pearson: NMSU.
18
19 Shearer: NMSU, we, we basically just news. We had a, a Youth Family Bicycle
20 Education class or a training we did on Saturday, April 2nd. One of the
21 things I did want to bring up was a concern on the, the crosswalk at
22 Hagerty on University. We had a recent bicycle injury there and I was just
23 trying to find out something since it doesn't belong to the university. The
24 crosswalk lights seem to be out there and I just wondered a little if there's
25 anything planned to improve that crosswalk so I proposed that to the City
26 so if there's any permission I'd be happy to issue it. I've got several
27 concerns on that. Thank you.
28
29 Pearson: Okay what exactly, where exactly was that again?
30
31 Shearer: That's on University, the only crosswalk on University that's not controlled.
32 It's at Hagerty, I think it's called is the one street and they had a ...
33
34 Curry: It's the one that's not at an intersection.
35
36 Pearson: It's where the, the midblock.
37
38 Shearer: Yes. Yes.
39
40 Pearson: What?
41
42 Shearer: There was a, there was a bicycle-related injury and one of the students
43 got hit by a car. I'm not saying that she was in the right when she crossed
44 there but the, basically was injured and this was I think the latter part of
45 March.
46

1 Curry: Was there not, I thought that Bill McCamley, our state representative had
2 somehow secured some funding to put in a signal, to put in a traffic,
3 pedestrian crossing signal.
4
5 Shearer: It's been brought up by ASNMSU but I haven't heard for certain that
6 anything's going on and since it ...
7
8 Pearson: I thought that was one of the things that came out of the session is that
9 there's \$100,000
10
11 Shearer: Oh.
12
13 Pearson: Capital outlay for a pedestrian, we're talking about a HAWK signal there.
14
15 Shearer: Oh, that came up? Okay. So I hadn't heard that. So all right.
16
17 Curry: Yeah. Talk to, talk, talk to Bill McCamley.
18
19 Shearer: Okay. Thank you.
20
21 Pearson: Okay.

22 23 **7.3 NMDOT Projects update**

24
25 Pearson: We don't have NMDOT. I had a couple of questions for NMDOT so we
26 can throw it out there anyways. On the Missouri project, the Triviz bike
27 facility that comes along there once you get to the, the intersection area
28 there that drops off of course to go through but it seems, especially the, on
29 the north side of Missouri on Triviz, that travel lane seems to be very
30 narrow and I'm wondering you know it seems like it's maybe 11-foot travel
31 lane. I wonder if a "Bicycle May Use Full Lane" sign shouldn't be
32 appropriately placed there or perhaps sharrows right down the middle of
33 the arrow until the bike lane picks up again later.
34
35 Murphy: Mr. Chair. In matters to Triviz that would ultimately be the, the City of Las
36 Cruces so we'll
37
38 Pearson: Right. It's ...
39
40 Murphy: We'll pass that on.
41
42 Pearson: Right now it's in limbo-land, is it NM ...
43
44 Murphy: It's in limbo-land, exactly. It's under DOT control right now for the
45 construction but it'll be, soon to be returned to the City.
46

1 Pearson: Right.
2
3 Murphy: But ...
4
5 Pearson: So that's the ...
6
7 Murphy: I think we can, we can pass that concern, concern along to Mr. lee.
8
9 Pearson: That was a particular direction that I went and noticed that as there just
10 isn't room for anybody to pass in that very narrow corridor so that's a
11 concern. I was going to ask about the TAP funding. I think we've talked
12 about that fairly well but one area that I was going to ask Jolene's input on
13 was NGOs, Non-Governmental Organizations are allowed to apply now ...
14
15 Curry: No.
16
17 Pearson: Aren't they?
18
19 Curry: No.
20
21 Murphy: Mr. Chair. According to the federal legislation NGOs and nonprofits are
22 eligible recipients. However they do leave discretion to the state and
23 NMDOT in the decision up in the Santa Fe at the, the Santa Fe level
24 decided that they do not want to open it up to NGOs.
25
26 Pearson: Okay.
27
28 Murphy: But it, however an NGO may partner with a, a governmental entity on an
29 application.
30
31 Pearson: Okay so that's, I was, having gone to the National Bike Summit I'd hear
32 more, heard more about that from the national side so thank you for that
33 information. I guess that's all I had on NMDOT projects that I had
34 questions about.
35
36 Curry: Mr. Chair. Is it time, when it's available can I make a comment?
37
38 Pearson: Sure. Not, we're at that point. Go ahead.
39
40 Curry: We are? We are at that point? Wonderful. I would like to just announce a
41 couple upcoming bicycle-related activities that we've got going on around
42 in the area. Las Cruces Public Schools together with Safe Routes to
43 School is, is presenting the Family Bike Fiesta which is April 30th and it's
44 open to really all the kids in our community and we're going to have a
45 number of bicycle-related activities: Education, some bike repair, flat, fix-
46 a-flat repair, some kind of fun activities with, we're teaming up with KidFit

1 which is put on by the Junior League. It's April 30th 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.
2 at Young Park. I've also got some posters here if anybody wants to take
3 those and put them in their place of work.

4 Also that, that leads us into National Bike, Bike to School Week will
5 be celebrated in the area from May the 2nd through May the 6th and we
6 have a website, walkbiketoschool.org, it's a national website that lists all
7 the schools that are participating and I think so far we have about 18 or 19
8 schools signed up for, for that National Bike to School week so just a, you
9 know an awareness that people are out there and also if anybody would
10 like to sign up and volunteer to bike with the, with the school we certainly
11 could use some extra bikers out there that, those mornings. Thank you.

12
13 Pearson: Any other committee members?

14
15 Bencomo: Mr. Chair, I received an e-mail from Kari Bachman who I work with at
16 Communities United and I forwarded that e-mail to you Mr. Chair, to
17 Ashleigh, Andrew Wray, I didn't have everybody's e-mail so I was trying to
18 get my computer to pull up the names. I think Michael got the e-mail also,
19 I forwarded it and it's from the National Park Service and it's, they're
20 accepting applications for 2017 projects, its Rivers, Trails, and
21 Conservation Assistance Program and it's National Park Service but
22 they're also doing like urban trails. Albuquerque is working with that.
23 They don't do, from what I've read they don't do projects per se. they help
24 you to like do planning for your trail systems and so I'm wondering if that's
25 something that we might be interested in to, to do a more comprehensive
26 plan of, cause right now the, the, the trail system that we have now and I
27 don't know that we want to marry the two or have some kind of separate
28 things or whatever but there are other groups like the Southern New
29 Mexico Trail Alliance who're working on trails too. They're not the, the
30 typical trails that you would find like we're talking multiuse trails, things like
31 that. Theirs are more like out in the desert, things like that but I, I think
32 they all eventually are going to serve these same purposes and I think
33 there's a lot of synergy they could have in with these groups. So I don't
34 know that, that we even want to do that or go there. I think it's a good idea
35 but that's just me. But the, they're, Albuquerque's using it, Santa Fe's
36 using it through the National Park Service and so it's just an opportunity I
37 think for maybe, to get some, some assistance from an entity like that, that
38 has a lot of expertise in that area. So thank you.

39
40 Pearson: Any other Members? Go ahead.

41
42 Billings: I have a comment. I was looking at the, the minutes for the last meeting
43 and I noticed you guys were talking about cleaning up dirt in bike lanes
44 and if the City could do anything about that, and I bike down Espina about
45 four miles each way and there are huge dirt like islands that you have to
46 bike into the road to get around and I was just wondering if any progress

1 had been done on finding out if there's like someone we call in the City or
2 some City Committee I could go talk to about cleaning up bike lanes like
3 that.
4

5 Pearson: Staff actually asked the question about street sweeping after that meeting
6 and got a response that was shared, but you weren't on the Committee so
7 maybe they can forward that to you also and remind us what that is if you
8 do have it. Part of the response was, off the top of my head the City
9 wants to sweep every street once every three months.
10

11 Murphy: Mr. ...
12

13 Pearson: But they are, have only one out of five pieces of equipment or something
14 running, something like that.
15

16 Murphy: Yes Mr. Chair. I don't remember the exact response either but there's,
17 there's something with an equipment shortage and they trying to, trying do
18 some skeleton schedule. I think the, the best they, the, the City does have
19 a, a website where you can get, log on and, and you know I think it's
20 similar to the Report A Pothole. I think this, you can report a, a street
21 sweeping necessity through that as well.
22

23 Billings: Thank you. And then I have one more thing since I am new to this
24 Committee and I brought stuff. On Alameda and Picacho there is a bike
25 lane like right before that intersection on Alameda. There is a bike lane
26 and it connects to Alameda Elementary School so I think it's kind of
27 important. It just disappears into a turn lane and there is no sign on
28 Alameda at all that says that the bike lane ends so I was wondering if we
29 could get a sign or like a bike lane painted on somewhere on that
30 intersection so that it's not a death trap cause it is now.
31

32 Murphy: We can look into that.
33

34 Billings: Okay. Thank you. That's it for me.
35

36 Bencomo: Mr. Chair. And, and related to that and talking about the street sweeping
37 so that, that was one of the reasons why when I brought that up previously
38 I, I asked if we could, if there was somebody we could meet with because
39 I understand that equipment breaks down, you only have so many, having
40 dealt in city government, we dealt with that in the Fire Department.
41 Sometimes we were way down on our fire apparatus and we had to do
42 what we did with our reserves but at the same time then we also had to
43 reprioritize and it's great to, that they want to sweep all the streets every
44 three months but when you're down on the equipment like that then let's
45 focus on the, on this, the ones that need it the most which would include
46 the ones maybe with the bike lanes, maybe prioritize it that way. I don't

1 know if they, if they do that, I don't know if they have a, a, anyway and
2 also when they, when they, I brought that up then I noticed about couple
3 weeks later when I rode down Elks they had swept but then they swept up
4 to like I think it was like close to Jasmine and then from there that way
5 they, there was nothing. And so I, I'm, I'm thinking maybe, I don't know if
6 there's a place on the website to do that like the Pothole Posse they used
7 to have, maybe we can do that but I think somebody needs to approach
8 somebody and ask them, "What is your system and what are we doing
9 with this?" because I think the bike lanes, if you can't do anything else do
10 the streets with the bike lanes at least. Otherwise we're just defeating the
11 purpose of having those so. Thank you.

12
13 Curry: I would second that. I, I don't know, maybe it exists already but like
14 someone's taken the idea of a place for public input, I'm hearing that both
15 from Ms. Billings and Mr. Bencomo that a place where public can
16 comment. "There's a pothole cover missing, I was biking this weekend
17 and there's a pothole cover missing and a big hole in the road," that kind
18 of thing that the public could call that in whether it's by, it's sweeping or
19 repairs or the crosswalk button is out, or you know whatever is going on.
20 So does such a thing exist?

21
22 Murphy: Mr. Chair, Ms. Curry. I, I think you know the Pothole Posse I believe does
23 exist and I think that's just kind of their catchy name for it. I think the, I
24 believe their intention is to be all-inclusive of citizen-reported street
25 deficiencies.

26
27 Pearson: Right. The Ask the City website, I guess I'll address the particular thing, I
28 was at the end of the La Llorona trail, the Outfall Channel Trail and there
29 was a sign there that was falling down. It's one of the signs that talked
30 about the owls I think if you've been there but I, I went to the website and
31 typed that in and in a day or two I got a call, "Now where is that sign?" So
32 they are responsive and try to follow up on some of those things. I think if
33 you put things in there, if you don't hear a response and if the system, if
34 the problem continues past a week or something after respond, reporting
35 that then you'd follow up maybe with this Committee or with a City
36 Councilor or something like that.

37
38 Bencomo: Mr. Chair. I'm sorry, I'll shut up eventually. Something just popped into
39 my head and I meant to bring it up earlier and then I forgot and it just
40 came back. So we're talking about completing the loop around the city
41 and then we're talking about the obstacles and those type of things so one
42 of the obstacles that I am familiar with because of my brother lives close to
43 there, he is disabled, he's, he rides a power chair everywhere and he
44 takes the dog out walking and he can't get any farther than the railroad
45 tracks down off of Dona Ana Road. Is there any plan in the future, I know
46 there's, now we're talking about in agreements with the Southern, with the

1 Santa Fe Railway or whoever, I don't know who, BNSF is the one I guess
2 that runs through there. Really it's inaccessible. It's, it's not a complete
3 loop so if you have anybody that accessibility issues as my brother does
4 then the, the loop at that point is just really inaccessible. Even some
5 bicyclists like when you have once again families that have little ones you
6 know you can't even go that way. So are there any plans to create those
7 crossings there and I know there's probably liabilities cause it says, there's
8 a sign that says, "Trail Ends," or something like that but it doesn't really
9 end there. You can see it on the other side so what, what is the idea
10 behind that?

11
12 Murphy: Mr. Chair, Mr. Bencomo. I know the, in development of the Outfall
13 Channel Trail the City tried to get an agreement with BNSF to, to cross
14 that. That was one of those days where BN, you know, I, I hate to cast
15 aspersions but you know I think the railroads has been historically shy
16 about cooperating with local governments so it, it, I think there, the effort's
17 been there on the local level but it's one of those things that we have no
18 control over but ...

19
20 Pearson: And we have no leverage.

21
22 Murphy: Everybody, everybody wants to keep trying.

23
24 Pearson: And we have no leverage either so we can't, don't have an opportunity to
25 tell the railroad, "You must do this." It's the railroad, "Well we've been
26 here for 100 years before everybody else," so that's where that problem
27 lies. Okay. Well I've got a couple other things I'm going to ask about. We
28 had a pedestrian facility on Telshor and I wonder if, in the newspaper
29 reports it was kind of halfway victim-blaming, halfway facility-blaming. Do
30 we have an attractive nuisance there, do we a, a living facility with a
31 shopping facility on the other sides, are we doing enough to make a safe
32 crossing there? Do we need a pedestrian, that HAWK system set up in
33 there or something? Is, is there anything that we can do to follow-up on
34 those kinds of things, prevent future problems of that type? It's probably,
35 it's a systemic problem. The Governor's Highway Safety Association:
36 Pedestrian Fatalities by State lists New Mexico's number-one by
37 population per hundred thousand in fatalities. So we've got the problem in
38 New Mexico in general so anything in particular that we can do to avoid
39 these kinds of problems is something that we need to investigate.

40
41 Bencomo: Mr. Chair, related to that, another thing popped into my head. The City
42 Manager's newsletter last week, it did mention something about Telshor
43 and they talked about removing the bike lanes from Telshor, Lohman, and
44 Lohman North and then creating a multiuse trail I guess up against the
45 dam behind there so do we, is there any information on that? I, I, I spoke
46 with Ashleigh about it by e-mail and she brought up a very good point, the

1 concern of removing those bike lanes prior to building the, an, an alternate
2 to that is very concerning. So it, do you have any information on that? I, I
3 felt that it was related to what you just said so I didn't mean to cut in.
4

5 Pearson: I think it's different but related, certainly related.
6

7 Murphy: Yes Mr. Chair. I, I'll, we, I address that. I saw that in the City Manager's
8 newsletter as well. We have not been asked by the City to do any, any
9 form of analysis but I did advise staff that that may be forthcoming. We
10 recent, as you've seen in Andrew's presentation we recently got the 2014
11 crash data so I'm having them put, put together you know the crashes
12 along that section. I think from you know, you know and then to address
13 your, your question Mr. or your comment Mr. Chair, from an MPO
14 perspective what we're trying to do is, is develop a systematic analysis of,
15 of data like the crash analysis so that we find you know trouble spots, we
16 find troublesome occurrences and then we, we're able to either pick a, you
17 know pick an area that we need to particularly focus on or is there a
18 particular classification of crash that we, that we need to pay particular
19 attention to and so from an MPO perspective what we're doing is we're
20 trying to make, we're making that part of our, our Safety Management Plan
21 where we identify the most dangerous locations and then we you know we
22 make, you know we make that known so that the, you know the, the
23 agencies that do operate facilities are, are able to be more aware of the
24 problem spots and direct funding accordingly.
25

26 Pearson: Right. Right. The idea of putting North Telshor into four lanes, that, I was
27 listening to City Council and that was Councilor Levatino bringing that up.
28 Complaints about traffic backing up at the intersection at Spruce is
29 probably what drove that comment. That is very worrying to me to convert
30 that street. It's a bicycle facility, it meets, it serves destinations so even if
31 they turn, made it a four-lane road bicycles will still be on there. We're
32 gonna end up with any number of, can't remember his name, Mr. Lemus,
33 Lemus, traffic fatal, bicycle fatalities. He was using that in, in an area
34 where it was four lanes or close to four lanes with a very narrow shoulder
35 to meet, and it was his only choice in order to go to his place of work. So
36 taking out the bicycle facility on North Telshor would be a problem and
37 making a much less safe facility because bicycles will use it, trying to
38 divert to, bicycles to another facility at the base of the dam is not going to
39 be, work because it's not going to serve the destinations for bicyclists and
40 it also goes against Complete Street policies that the City has so the City,
41 if the City needs to increase capacity which is a bad idea anyways, the
42 increased capacity you're just going to increase congestion but if they
43 decide they need to do that they do need to have bicycle facilities as part
44 of that design.
45

1 Murphy: Mr. Chair, I do believe that the data is on your, agrees with the, agrees
2 with you. And, and it, just to, just to add on to that I think our experience
3 with doing road diets at various locations shown that going from four lanes
4 to three lanes and bike lanes increases safety. It does not reduce
5 capacity which is, is the chief complaint. So I, I think part of it is we need
6 to, we need to educate members of the public and, and maybe some of
7 our, our leaders on you know how efficient four lanes is versus three lanes
8 and, and things of that nature. So ...
9

10 Pearson: Right. During the discussion on El Paseo, turning that into a road diet
11 would not be a problem because it's built way over capacity the way it is
12 now. So the similar kind of ideas I think fit throughout the rest of the city.
13 We need to talk about lowering traffic speed rates and that makes a more,
14 for a more livable municipality. And right along that line of, there was a,
15 the City had a presentation on the conversion to two-way of Church and
16 Water. I'm kind of disappointed that that discussion hasn't come to this
17 Committee too. This is, one of our primary goals is public input and for the
18 City to bring those projects here allows Committee Members and
19 members of the public should they choose to attend. It helps and the
20 reason this Committee's here is we have certain level of expertise and can
21 offer some suggestions as to what kind of projects, what kind of bicycle
22 facilities might work. They were presenting some ideas of bike lanes on
23 the, on, in the conversion and maybe having to drop them in certain areas,
24 different ideas and those would be things that would be worthwhile to
25 bring the, to this Committee.
26

27 Nunez: Mr. Chair.
28

29 Pearson: Yes.
30

31 Nunez: On that last comment that you had about the downtown area. I do know
32 that that's still in design.
33

34 Pearson: Right.
35

36 Nunez: And ...
37

38 Pearson: So now's a good time to bring it to us.
39

40 Nunez: Right. I can only invite, I'll talk to my supervisor.
41

42 Pearson: Right.
43

44 Nunez: And he's working with the consulting engineering firm on that.
45

1 Pearson: And the last thing that I have is that this weekend, on Saturday at the WIA
2 Building is the New Mexico Bike Summit. So we're, have a program
3 having some national importance and some local importance.
4 Everybody's invited. I think some of you have already signed up to attend
5 and spread the word and come and join us on Saturday. On Friday night
6 before we're having a free to, open to the public presentation on bike
7 packing so that's also available. Any last comments from Committee
8 Members?
9

10 **8. PUBLIC COMMENT**

11
12 **9. ADJOURNMENT (6:26 p.m.)**

13
14 Pearson: Here a comma, I'll hear a motion to adjourn then.

15
16 Bencomo: So moved.

17
18 Curry: Second.

19
20 Pearson: All in favor, "aye."
21

22 MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY.
23

24 Pearson: And we're adjourned. Thank you.
25
26
27
28
29

30 Chairperson
31
32



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P.O. BOX 20000 | LAS CRUCES NM | 88004

PHONE (575) 528-3222 | FAX (575) 528-3155

<http://mesillavalleympo.org>

MESILLA VALLEY METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN FACILITIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE DISCUSSION FORM FOR THE MEETING OF May 17, 2016

AGENDA ITEM:

5.1 Missouri/Roadrunner Study Corridor Presentation

DISCUSSION:

Bohannon-Huston Staff will present on the Missouri/Roadrunner Study Corridor project.



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AGENDA ITEM:

5.2 City of Las Cruces Downtown Presentation

DISCUSSION:

City of Las Cruces Staff will present on ongoing efforts in the Las Cruces Downtown.



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AGENDA ITEM:

5.3 Committee Training – Committee Responsibilities

DISCUSSION:

MPO Staff will give a training on the MPO Committee structure and committee responsibilities.