

1                   **MESILLA VALLEY METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION**  
2                                   **TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
3

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

9   **MEMBERS PRESENT:**     John Gwynne (DAC Flood Commission)  
10                               David Armijo (SCRTD)  
11                               Mike Bartholomew (CLC Transit)  
12                               Bill Childress (BLM)  
13                               Jolene Herrera (NMDOT)  
14                               Stephen Howie (EBID)  
15                               Harold Love (NMDOT)  
16                               Luis Marmolejo (DAC Planning)  
17                               Rene Molina (DAC Engineering)  
18                               Larry Shannon (Town of Mesilla)  
19                               Tony Trevino (CLC Public Works)  
20

21   **MEMBERS ABSENT:**     Todd Gregory (LCPS)  
22                               Dale Harrell (NMSU)  
23                               SooGyu Lee (CLC)  
24                               Debbi Lujan (Town of Mesilla)  
25

26   **STAFF PRESENT:**       Tom Murphy (MPO Staff)  
27                               Andrew Wray (MPO Staff)  
28                               Michael McAdams (MPO Staff)  
29                               Zachary Taraschi (MPO Staff)  
30

31   **OTHERS PRESENT:**     Becky Baum, RC Creations, LLC, Recording Secretary  
32

33   **1.     CALL TO ORDER (4:05 p.m.)**  
34

35   Gwynne:     Let's go ahead and call the meeting to order. This is the Mesilla Valley  
36                   Metropolitan Planning Organization - Technical Advisory Committee  
37                   meeting for April 7th, 2016. Let's go ahead and start with, with the roll call  
38                   and we'll start all the way down, let's start down here at the table with  
39                   Jolene and then come around from my right to left.  
40

41   Herrera:     Good afternoon. Jolene Herrera, NMDOT.  
42

43   Love:        Harold Love, NMDOT.  
44

45   Marmolejo:  Luis Marmolejo, DAC Planning.  
46

1 Armijo: David Armijo, SCRTD.  
2  
3 Shannon: Larry Shannon, Town of Mesilla.  
4  
5 Molina: Rene Molina, Dona Ana County Engineering.  
6  
7 Howie: Steven Howie, Elephant Butte Irrigation District.  
8  
9 Gwynne: John Gwynne, Dona Ana County Flood Commission.  
10  
11 Trevino: Tony Trevino, City of Las Cruces.  
12  
13 Childress: Bill Childress, District Manager, BLM.  
14  
15 Bartholomew: Mike Bartholomew, City of Las Cruces RoadRUNNER Transit.

16  
17 **2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

18  
19 Gwynne: Okay. Are there any changes to the agenda?  
20

21 Wray: No Mr. Chair.  
22

23 Gwynne: I'll entertain a motion to approve the agenda as submitted.  
24

25 Love: So moved.  
26

27 Bartholomew: Second.  
28

29 Gwynne: It's been moved and seconded. All those in favor.  
30

31 MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY.  
32

33 **3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

34  
35 **3.1 March 3, 2016**

36  
37 Gwynne: Okay, Approval of the Minutes. Has everyone had a chance to look at the  
38 minutes from our last meeting?

39  
40 Wray: Mr. Chair.

41  
42 Gwynne: Yes.  
43

44 Wray: There is one amendment that staff needs to make. Rene Molina is not  
45 listed as being absent at the February, or at the March meeting and he

1 was not present, so that needs to be modified to show, to reflect his  
2 absence.

3  
4 Gwynne: Okay. Any other changes? Okay I'll entertain a motion to accept the  
5 minutes as amended.

6  
7 Bartholomew: So moved.

8  
9 Molina: Second.

10  
11 Gwynne: All those in favor.

12  
13 MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY.

14  
15 **4. PUBLIC COMMENT**

16  
17 Gwynne: Let's move on to Public Comment. Do we have any comment from the  
18 public? Seeing none.

19  
20 **5. ACTION ITEMS**

21  
22 **5.1 Recommendation of approval of FFY 2017 and FFY 2018 UPWP**

23  
24 Gwynne: We'll move onto our first Action Item. This is recommendation for approval  
25 of, of the Fiscal Year 2017, Fiscal Year 2018 UPWP, Work Plan, Unified  
26 Work Plan.

27  
28 ANDREW WRAY GAVE THE PRESENTATION.

29  
30 Gwynne: Does any of the committee have any questions about any part of the  
31 document including the areas that Andrew's highlighted?

32  
33 Marmolejo: Chair, I'm sorry didn't catch the first part of the comments about doing that  
34 in the Colonia. Are you gonna chose a Colonia? What, what part of that  
35 was that, I didn't catch the first part of it.

36  
37 Wray: We're still in the preliminary phases. We haven't made a selection yet.

38  
39 Marmolejo: For?

40  
41 Wray: For the Colonia to do the pilot project in.

42  
43 Marmolejo: Okay. Thank you. Can I recommend that you speak with County staff on  
44 that?

45  
46 Wray: That was, that was the intention.

1  
2 Marmolejo: Okay. Thank you.  
3  
4 Herrera: Mr. Chair.  
5  
6 Gwynne: Yes.  
7  
8 Herrera: Andrew you might not be able to answer this right now but the budget  
9 summary on page 29 is still showing a 515.  
10  
11 Wray: So it is.  
12  
13 Herrera: So that needs to be updated. And then I also noticed on page 26 for  
14 Function V, you don't have the little table at the end with the estimated  
15 staff hours and stuff, so that needs to be added also please.  
16  
17 Wray: What page did you say? Function what?  
18  
19 Herrera: For, on page 26 for Function V.  
20  
21 Wray: Oh, I apologize, those were actually left in superfluously. We do not have  
22 an Item 5.5 or an Item 5.6. Those are, those are needed to be deleted  
23 and Jolene caught our oversight before we printed.  
24  
25 Herrera: And then just make sure on Function V you put the ... oh wait, there it is,  
26 never mind. Yeah, just those two. Take those two out please. Thank  
27 you.  
28  
29 Childress: Mr. Chairman. I have just one request and it's possible that somebody  
30 from my agency has been contacted regarding the A Mountain study. As  
31 you know even though New Mexico State has ownership of, of, of the A  
32 Mountain portion where Sonoma Ranch goes through, BLM does have  
33 responsibilities of managing the recreational trails associated with both  
34 sides of the mountain, so if, I wanted to make sure that we were contacted  
35 and had some discussions when discussing that possibility of extending  
36 Sonoma Ranch Road.  
37  
38 Wray: Thank you. We will certainly do that Mr. Childress.  
39  
40 Childress: Thank you.  
41  
42 Gwynne: Are there any other questions? Okay. So Andrew I believe we're looking  
43 for ...  
44  
45 Wray: We need a motion.  
46

1 Gwynne: Motion to recommend this to the Policy Committee, is that correct?  
2  
3 Wray: Yes, that's correct.  
4  
5 Gwynne: I'll entertain such a motion. Please include the, the amended things that  
6 we've just done in this document as part of that motion.  
7  
8 Bartholomew: I'll, I'll, I'll move that we make a, we recommend the UPWP to the Policy  
9 Committee.  
10  
11 Gwynne: As amended.  
12  
13 Bartholomew: As, as amended.  
14  
15 Gwynne: Very good.  
16  
17 Herrera: I second.  
18  
19 Gwynne: Okay it's been moved and seconded. All those in favor.  
20  
21 MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY.  
22  
23 Gwynne: Motion carries.  
24  
25 **6. DISCUSSION ITEMS**  
26  
27 **6.1 Discussion of the TAP/Rec Trails Application Process**  
28  
29 Gwynne: Okay the next item is discussion of the recreational trail, the TAP and  
30 recreational trail application process.  
31  
32 Wray: Thank you Mr. Chair. I'd like to turn the floor over at this time to Ms.  
33 Jolene Herrera from NMDOT.  
34  
35 JOLENE HERRERA GAVE THE PRESENTATION.  
36  
37 Molina: I've got a quick question.  
38  
39 Gwynne: Go ahead.  
40  
41 Molina: Can this funding be used as a match for other funding; be it federal or  
42 state?  
43  
44 Herrera: No. This is for projects only, projects and programs like Safe Routes to  
45 School Coordinators, and also if you, if any of the entities are interested in

1 pedestrian master plans, bicycle master plans, those kinds of things are  
2 eligible under these two programs.

3  
4 Molina: Thank you.

5  
6 Gwynne: Thank you very much. I'm sure there'll be more questions once we get a  
7 chance to have a look at it and, and go through it.

8  
9 Herrera: Yeah and please, I mean start with the, the MPO as your point of contact  
10 for questions. Obviously you can always contact me as well. Andrew will  
11 be in contact with me if there's anything that, that the MPO's not able to  
12 answer but, but keep in mind that District 1 and myself and the MPO  
13 would be happy to meet with you all if you need some individual guidance  
14 or have any questions.

15  
16 Gwynne: Okay. Good enough.

17  
18 **7. COMMITTEE AND STAFF COMMENTS**

19  
20 **7.1 City of Las Cruces, Dona Ana County, Town of Mesilla, Las Cruces  
21 Public Schools, RoadRUNNER Transit, SCRTD Project Updates**

22  
23 Gwynne: Next item on our list is Committee and Staff Comments. Let's start with  
24 the City of Las Cruces.

25  
26 Trevino: Two projects we have going on is the Las Cruces Dam trails which is  
27 LC00190. That one is hopefully going to start construction Monday. That  
28 is the 3.2 miles of trails behind the Las Cruces Dam.

29 The El Paso Safety project, LC00130 is under construction and so  
30 far ahead of schedule. They've got two of the six intersections complete  
31 and the anticipated completion date hopefully will be middle to the end of  
32 the summer. So that is all I have.

33  
34 Gwynne: Okay. Dona Ana County.

35  
36 Molina: Sure, the only project that I was gonna mention on was Dripping Springs  
37 which should be completed actually by June. Our contractor's ahead of  
38 schedule and base course is already installed. We have a pavement pre-  
39 construction meeting Monday and soon after we'll pave and go to seeding  
40 and complete the project. Thanks.

41  
42 Gwynne: Town of Mesilla.

43  
44 Shannon: I have nothing.

45  
46 Gwynne: Nothing. Okay. Las Cruces Public Schools.

1  
2 Wray: They're absent today.  
3  
4 Gwynne: They're absent. RoadRUNNER Transit.  
5  
6 Bartholomew: A week ago this past Monday the, the Las Cruces City Council did  
7 approve the, the service plan update that was, the MPO took the lead on  
8 for us where we will implement changes in our routes that should make  
9 the routes more efficient with, and the plan includes future phases as  
10 funding is available to expand service on evenings and, and weekends.  
11 And we're diligently, with the help of the MPO working on, on this  
12 transition and we hope to implement the new routes hopefully by early  
13 July or so.  
14  
15 Gwynne: Okay, the South Central Regional Transit District.  
16  
17 Armijo: Yes. Thank you. We've been making some progress. As you know we  
18 rolled out service back in the end of February. We're continuing to  
19 operate the four bus routes down in the Mesilla Valley area. Much of my  
20 activity over the last few weeks has been working on federal grant  
21 process. I just made it through the TAC, Technical Advisory Committee  
22 yesterday in El Paso so we've been recommended for a grant of about  
23 \$109,000, that'll give us some money for capital and for operating  
24 specifically our Purple Line. In fact, one of the elements of that project is  
25 to convert that line next year into a flex service, so actually be doing some  
26 route deviations so that'll be kind of interesting to see how we do with that.  
27 The second area is we are very close, we're late in the game but  
28 they did allow us to participate through the New Mexico DOT's 5311 grant  
29 process and that's actually looking very promising for us and would give  
30 us a substantial amount of money to match with that of Dona Ana County  
31 the member agencies, so that would go into effect if all goes well over the  
32 next few weeks, we get the final approval of that which I think is through  
33 June. That would go in effect sometime in October or so. A lot of activity  
34 going on there. I think that might give us enough revenue to begin to look  
35 at the next fiscal year as to whether or not we can add our fifth route and  
36 go up into Hatch and there's continuing to be a lot of phone calls and  
37 activity of people really want to get north. Of course we have borders that  
38 go all the way to Sierra County but I think right now I told them that may  
39 be a bridge too far, but we'll keep working on that. And that's the end of  
40 my report. Thank you.  
41  
42 Gwynne: Very good. How's your ridership doing so far?  
43  
44 Armijo: You know it's been very modest compared to 18 months ago, but it, we've  
45 really done this as a very soft roll out. I think right now, in fact in the third  
46 week of service we made our first service change which usually you don't

1 like to do but we knew there was going to be some adjustments. One of  
2 the things that we found is although in the early going we anticipated more  
3 ridership here in Las Cruces, in point of fact we're actually getting more  
4 ridership in Anthony and with the four buses pulsing there that's really not  
5 a surprise. I think what we're gonna show is right now the, the Red Line is  
6 our, is our number one line from Anthony to Cruces and vice versa, but in  
7 fact it's the Purple Line coming down through Sunland Park and then  
8 making some connections to Sun Metro and I say that connections cause  
9 it does require a little bit of walking to do so. So some, there's gonna  
10 certainly be some change I, I anticipate as we go into the late spring  
11 months that the ridership will be in a kick up and then we're begin  
12 marketing it more aggressively, but we were able to do by adjusting the  
13 pulse point out of Las Cruces is now we're making all of our connections  
14 out of Anthony which is good. I think one of the things that the service  
15 should be able to do early on is be on time. So I think that was a high  
16 priority for us. But thank you for that question.

## 17 18 **7.2 NMDOT Projects Update**

19  
20 Gwynne: DOT.

21  
22 Herrera: Okay I'll be giving just a brief update on projects in construction. Missouri  
23 Avenue will be done by the end of April. There, I believe Missouri will be  
24 closed tonight, so from, from eight p.m. to six a.m. we'll be closing  
25 Missouri, but hopefully it'll just be another couple weeks and we'll have all  
26 the orange barrels completely out of there.

27 The Union Avenue and Ramp E bridges are coming along nicely.  
28 Everything's on time so we should be looking at late May, early June for  
29 the completion of that project.

30 The section of I-10 from the Jackrabbit interchange to the I-10/I-25  
31 interchange, they're all done with the mill and inlay part so they are  
32 suspended right now until the Union and Ramp E bridges are done and  
33 they'll come back through and finish that project up. So since the same  
34 contractor was awarded both of the mill and inlay projects they've jumped  
35 over to the six-lane portion. They're now doing work at night so hopefully  
36 there hasn't been a huge impact to traffic during the daytime on that.  
37 They're looking at probably finishing up the whole I-10 corridor by this  
38 winter. So that's all that I have.

39  
40 Gwynne: Okay.

## 41 42 **7.3 MPO Staff Projects Update**

43  
44 Gwynne: MPO staff.  
45



1 Wray: Thank you Mr. Chair. We have been working away on the multiuse loop  
2 trail around the City. We have continued to meet with the various  
3 jurisdictions. We've, I believe met with, with all of them at this point. We  
4 are going to be taking the, this item to the Policy Committee for their first  
5 review next week. We're also going to be discussing with them some of  
6 the, the intricacies surrounding the EBID agreements that would be  
7 needed for the use of the EBID laterals, not, not just in this specific  
8 instance but it's turned out that as a result of this we've kind of opened up  
9 a wider issue of this a bit more broadly spread over the area and MPO  
10 staff needs direction from the Policy Committee about how we're going to  
11 proceed. So that is the, the only staff update.

12  
13 Gwynne: Good enough.

14  
15 **8. PUBLIC COMMENT**

16  
17 Gwynne: Is there any comments from the public? Seeing none.

18  
19 **9. ADJOURNMENT (4:26 p.m.)**

20  
21 Gwynne: We're at the adjournment portion of our meeting unless there are any, any  
22 other comments, then I'll accept a motion for adjournment.

23  
24 Bartholomew: I move we adjourn.

25  
26 Herrera: Second.

27  
28 Gwynne: All those in favor.

29  
30 MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY.

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38

  
Chairperson

