



# METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

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## MESILLA VALLEY METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

### POLICY COMMITTEE

### AMENDED AGENDA

The following is the Agenda for a meeting of the Policy Committee of the Mesilla Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization (MVMPO) to be held **April 11, 2018 at 1:00 p.m.** in the **Doña Ana County Commission Chambers**, 845 Motel Blvd., Las Cruces, New Mexico. Meeting packets are available on the [Mesilla Valley MPO website](http://MesillaValleyMPO.org).

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1. **CALL TO ORDER/ Pledge of Allegiance** \_\_\_\_\_ **Chair**
2. **CONFLICT OF INTEREST INQUIRY** \_\_\_\_\_ **Chair**  
*Does any Committee Member have any known or perceived conflict of interest with any item on the agenda? If so, that Committee member may recuse themselves from voting on a specific matter, or if they feel that they can be impartial, we will put their participation up to a vote by the rest of the Committee.*
3. **PUBLIC COMMENT** \_\_\_\_\_ **Chair**
4. **CONSENT AGENDA\*** \_\_\_\_\_ **Chair**
5. **\* APPROVAL OF MINUTES** \_\_\_\_\_  
5.1. \*February 7, 2018 \_\_\_\_\_ **Chair**
6. **DISCUSSION ITEMS** \_\_\_\_\_  
6.1. Committee training: MPO 101 \_\_\_\_\_ **MPO Staff**  
6.2. Comments on El Paso MPO Destino 2045 \_\_\_\_\_ **MPO Staff**  
6.3. NMDOT update \_\_\_\_\_ **NMDOT Staff**  
6.4. Committee Attendance \_\_\_\_\_ **Chair**
7. **COMMITTEE and STAFF COMMENTS** \_\_\_\_\_ **Chair**
8. **PUBLIC COMMENT** \_\_\_\_\_ **Chair**
9. **ADJOURNMENT** \_\_\_\_\_ **Chair**

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1                   **MESILLA VALLEY METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION**  
2                                   **POLICY COMMITTEE**

3  
4   The following are minutes for the meeting of the Mesilla Valley Metropolitan Planning  
5   Organization (MPO) Policy Committee which was held February 7, 2018 at 1:00 p.m. in  
6   the City of Las Cruces Council Chambers, 700 N. Main, Las Cruces, New Mexico.  
7

8   **MEMBERS PRESENT:**   Trent Doolittle (NMDOT)  
9                               Councillor Jack Eakman (CLC)  
10                              Trustee Linda Flores (Town of Mesilla)  
11                              Commissioner Isabella Solis (DAC)  
12                              Councillor Gill Sorg (CLC)  
13

14   **MEMBERS ABSENT:**   Mayor Nora Barraza (Town of Mesilla)  
15                              Commissioner Benjamin Rawson (DAC)  
16                              Councillor Gabriel Vasquez (CLC)  
17                              Commissioner John Vasquez (DAC)  
18

19   **STAFF PRESENT:**     Tom Murphy (MPO staff)  
20                              Andrew Wray (MPO staff)  
21                              Michael McAdams (MPO staff)  
22                              Dominic Loya (MPO Staff)  
23

24   **OTHERS PRESENT:**    Becky Baum, RC Creations, LLC, Recording Secretary  
25

26   **1.     CALL TO ORDER / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE (1:05 PM)**  
27

28   Eakman:     We do have a quorum present and I am going to call this meeting to order.  
29                 Would you join me in the Pledge of Allegiance please?  
30

31   ALL STAND FOR THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.  
32

33   **2.     CONFLICT OF INTEREST INQUIRY**  
34

35   Eakman:     If I might Mr. Wray or Mr. Murphy, the agenda we received, is that the  
36                 agenda we're going to follow? Are there any additions or admissions?  
37

38   Wray:        No Mr. Chair.  
39

40   Eakman:     Very good. And then I would ask very simply if any member of the MPO  
41                 has a conflict with any issue that is on this agenda?  
42

43   Sorg:         None.  
44

45   Solis:        No.  
46

1 Eakman: None.

2  
3 **3. PUBLIC COMMENT**

4  
5 Eakman: Public comment. Is there public comment? Please don't rush the dais  
6 please. One at a time. One at a time. Okay, I don't see any public  
7 comment.  
8

9 **4. CONSENT AGENDA \***

10  
11 Eakman: What are your wishes on the consent agenda as presented?

12  
13 Sorg: More to approve.

14  
15 Solis: Second.

16  
17 Eakman: It's been moved and second to approve the consent agenda. Could we  
18 have a vote Mr. Wray?

19  
20 Wray: Certainly. Trustee Flores.

21  
22 Flores: Yes.

23  
24 Wray: Mr. Doolittle.

25  
26 Doolittle: Yes.

27  
28 Wray: Councillor Sorg.

29  
30 Sorg: Yes.

31  
32 Wray: Commissioner Solis.

33  
34 Solis: Yes.

35  
36 Wray: Mr. Chair.

37  
38 Eakman: Yes.

39  
40 **5. \* APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

41  
42 **5.1 \* January 10 2018**

43  
44 - VOTED ON VIA THE CONSENT AGENDA

45  
46 **6. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

1  
2           **6.1   New Mexico Border Authority presentation**  
3

4   Eakman:       And so if we could begin with the discussion items. Go right ahead.  
5

6   Wray:         Thank you Mr. Chair. MPO staff is very pleased to have with us today the  
7                 Executive Director of the New Mexico Border Authority and the former  
8                 Mayor of the City of Las Cruces, Mr. Bill Mattiace.  
9

10   Eakman:      Very good. Mr. Mattiace, welcome.  
11

12   Mattiace:     Mr. Chairman, Members of the Committee. Thank you very much. As he  
13                 mentioned I'm Bill Mattiace, Executive Director. I've been there since  
14                 January 2011 and I'm just going to go through this presentation real quick  
15                 and then I'm going to jump to the material that I felt was a priority that I put  
16                 in your packet because it has more impact on transportation than the other  
17                 projects that we're working with. Here's a mission, I don't need to read it  
18                 to you but mainly the Border Authority was started in 1992, it was Senator  
19                 Pete Dominici, Frank O. Papen, Charlie Crowder and it created an  
20                 authority that would overlook and enhance, improve not only wait times  
21                 but infrastructure at the three ports of entry. We're under the Governor's  
22                 office, our main boss. We are administratively connected with the EDD,  
23                 the Economic Development Department. They do our payroll and some of  
24                 our budget. We do have our own budget analyst now, Mr. David Espinoza  
25                 that takes care of approximately we have in progress we have about \$8.5  
26                 million worth of grants and federal grants, both capital and state grants  
27                 and enterprise funds that we're operating the different projects with.

28                 This is where we're important. It's our southern border. We work  
29                 with of course binational programs, the New Mexico Border Authority has  
30                 both the Governor's conferences and the Governor's commission  
31                 meetings with Sonora and Chihuahua. And we deal both with not only the  
32                 Governor's but the (*inaudible*) and many of the organizations that are  
33                 equivalent, for example with the New Mexico Department of  
34                 Transportation, they have their transportation department, health  
35                 department, zoning department, and we compliment each other at these  
36                 commission meetings.

37                 The three ports of entry, Antelope Wells which really is not a very  
38                 busy port of entry, it doesn't have commercial application. Basically it's  
39                 earmarked for pedestrian crossings right now only. Columbus/Palomas of  
40                 course everybody knows about the big news there. We just had a  
41                 meeting with Senator Udall's representatives trying to work some NAD  
42                 bank grants. The New Mexico Border Authority is the lead agency for the  
43                 \$17 million project for the flood berm. Right now we have \$2 million that  
44                 we receive from colonias grants. That's being drawn down, almost 80% of  
45                 that has been spent for design and the study. We have an additional \$6  
46                 million of capital outlay that hopefully is approved at this current legislative

1 session, and then a matching Army Corps of Engineer grant of \$8 million  
2 and that will give us the full berm protection. And that berm is very  
3 important because it will protect the new port of entry which is  
4 approximately \$95-\$100 million facility that is being built in Columbus.  
5 The traffic at Columbus, the traffic at port of entry at Santa Teresa and  
6 Antelope wells for 2017 we've had approximately a 41% increase both in  
7 commercial and POVs and I included some tables in here as well.

8 Again these are the items. I just wanted everyone to be educated  
9 on what the main source is, what the main product is coming over at each  
10 port of entry. As you can see the Santa Teresa is big on commercial  
11 traffic, I believe it'll be about 120,000 commercial trucks for 2017. Much of  
12 it is computer equipment with the Dell computers and the Foxconn facility.  
13 That's the main traffic, of course Cemex and other produce as well as both  
14 your pecans and other products coming across. These are some of the  
15 tables. You can see a little dip up and down, but mainly you're looking at  
16 something which is phenomenal and that's 633,000 tourists, 633,000 cars,  
17 that's just the vehicle crossing northbound from Mexico on an annual  
18 basis. So if you do some math and you put four or five people in each  
19 vehicle or van coming across, that's two million visitors to the state of New  
20 Mexico on an annual basis. And that would approximately be the same,  
21 we do not have southbound numbers, we just have the northbound, but  
22 were looking at probably about the same numbers going both southbound  
23 and northbound. As with the commercial trucks, 114,000 commercial  
24 trucks. Well you probably have 114,000 empties going back southbound  
25 to get more cargo and more goods and products that they would deliver to  
26 the United States.

27 I just put Columbus in there. It's also a busy port. You can see the  
28 pedestrians. Of the number of pedestrians, just to give some clarity, much  
29 of that could be the schoolchildren. You have about 400-500 I heard the n  
30 umbers, schoolchildren crossing on a daily basis to go to the schools in  
31 Columbus and Deming. So that's in that 257,000 number, but it does  
32 need the protection and the services of US Customs and Border Patrol.  
33 So that does lead to jobs and services that need to be done at that port of  
34 entry. I included Antelope Wells, we're not allowed a chuckle, but it's not  
35 as busy as the other port of entries but they do have a beautiful facility  
36 there. When I started in 2011 they just had completed a \$12 million US  
37 port of entry facility. You can see ... yes.

38  
39 Doolittle: I just wanted, Bill brought up the importance of each port. From the  
40 department's perspective although we don't have commercial vehicles  
41 crossing at Antelope Wells, you know infrastructure's important for us.  
42 And so we're doing all the improvements at Santa Teresa on 136. We've  
43 done some pavement overlays on NM-11 which is from Columbus to the I-  
44 10 corridor. We have 10-foot shoulders on that stretch of road. Antelope  
45 Wells, most of our roads coming out of Antelope Wells are two-lane  
46 facilities with no shoulders. And so you see us spending money as a

department very frequently based on the types of vehicles and the numbers that we see coming across. So a lot of people joke about Antelope Wells and how small it is compared to the other three, but impacts of the department are fairly large just because of our infrastructure. It is POVs most of the time coming across there. I think we do have some Amish furniture and those kinds of things coming across, but we're spending a lot of money elsewhere, but we still have to keep up with those roads.

Mattiace: Yes, and we just had word from Udall's office through the representative as well as Mayor Skinner that 1,000 acres have just been purchased south of Antelope Wells. And the 1,000 acres will be designed for agricultural products. And I think later in, this is some of the projects that we have ongoing, and this is not just the Border Authority but this is projects from New Mexico Department of Transportation, projects from Dona Ana County, projects from BIA, both water/wastewater projects, and projects particularly that the New Mexico Border Authority actually funded with their enterprise money. For example the southbound road for the dual customer's clearance, that road was built with enterprise funds from the New Mexico Border Authority. And dual customs clearance is just started.

We usually receive from the parking fees in 2010 to 2016, approximately \$220,000 to \$240,000 came in on an annual basis from parking fees. We were able to conserve that money. It wasn't reverted back to the state. And then we used that project money both for the southbound lane in cooperation with the Dona Ana County combination of \$50,000 from us and I think \$400,000 from the County. And then we used \$50,000 for the Village of Columbus. We used another \$60,000 to improve the parking lot at the Village of Columbus. And then we used \$187,000 to leverage the rail grant which we received from the Department of Commerce for \$1.8 million, and then we did the same thing with the colonias money, we used enterprise funds to give a match to get the \$1.8 million. So we have been drawing down on that about \$880,000 of enterprise money to actually do projects. We haven't spent it on anything frivolous and no lunches. It's all been seriously spent on projects.

Sorg: I'd like to ask a question.

Mattiace: Yes sir.

Sorg: On the previous chart for the border crossings, could you go back to that slide? One more. One more. There. I'm very curious that in 2015 at Antelope Wells in the months of May and June there were so many people crossing on foot. What happened there? You didn't have any in the other times.

1  
2 Mattiace: You have pedestrians, real spikes if there are events going on. In other  
3 words if you have major events, whether it be a joint binational event. We  
4 have that in Columbus as well. And you also have it in that area. And  
5 then you'll see a spike in the pedestrian, what they'll do is they'll bring the  
6 vans just up to the border, will not cross with the vans and the pedestrians  
7 will walk over.  
8  
9 Sorg: But there's nothing north of the border there at Antelope Wells.  
10  
11 Mattiace: No, they're coming from Casas Grandes and other areas and farm areas.  
12  
13 Sorg: But north of the border, in New Mexico, there's nothing there.  
14  
15 Mattiace: No.  
16  
17 Sorg: Wide open spaces. I actually surveyed that area, biological survey before  
18 they put the new changes, put the money in there. In fact that \$13 million  
19 you said, \$13 million at the Antelope.  
20  
21 Mattiace: \$12.5 for the facility.  
22  
23 Sorg: Tiny little bit of that went to me. Okay. I just was curious. That's okay.  
24 Thank you.  
25  
26 Mattiace: This is an indication we've had both with the Metropolitan MPO area of  
27 Las Cruces it really spiked almost number one, exports and imports have  
28 been phenomenal over the last two years. Right now Mexico is New  
29 Mexico's biggest export market. You can see that the forecast, the very  
30 last sentence is almost 85% increased just in produce and this is probably  
31 why the Mennonites are buying 1,000 acres and getting into growing  
32 products because again New Mexico and the entire United States have an  
33 appetite for fruits and vegetables and avocados. Yes sir.  
34  
35 Sorg: Yeah, I'm really curious on these imports. New Mexico possesses one-third  
36 of the cattle imported from Mexico. Are those feeder cattle do you know?  
37  
38 Mattiace: No they're actually for range growth. In other words they'll go to the  
39 feedlots.  
40  
41 Sorg: Okay.  
42  
43 Mattiace: And fattened up and then become beef.  
44  
45 Sorg: Those call it feeder cattle, yeah.  
46



1 Mattiace: And then now we have bulls. We have approximately 100-200 per month  
2 now that issue with the bulls have been addressed so we also have for  
3 fertilization and increasing the stock both in the United States with Cattle  
4 from Mexico and visa versa.  
5  
6 Sorg: Yeah, and then too you say the, Mennonites.  
7  
8 Mattiace: Mennonites just purchased ...  
9  
10 Sorg: Where's this land?  
11  
12 Mattiace: If you head out toward Berrendo Road and take Berrendo Road into  
13 Mexico for about three or four kilometers and go back east, the land is  
14 right there. So it's very close on the border.  
15  
16 Sorg: Where is Merendo Road?  
17  
18 Mattiace: Berrendo Road's the road coming from Highway 2 right into Antelope  
19 Wells.  
20  
21 Sorg: Oh, Antelope Wells. Okay. Thank you.  
22  
23 Mattiace: And so we believe and that's what Mayor Skinner was explaining that  
24 many of the products will be probably using Columbus as their port of  
25 entry and not Antelope Wells because it's restricted to pedestrians only.  
26 So that product will be coming through Columbus.  
27  
28 Sorg: Okay.  
29  
30 Mattiace: This is a very important big project and this affects New Mexico  
31 Department of Transportation tremendously, in fact the New Mexico  
32 Department of Transportation just allocated \$100,000 toward the study.  
33 We're moving in to phase two of the rail study. We finished phase one  
34 actually telling the state (*inaudible*) that it's feasible. Yes it can be done.  
35 We can eventually ask for Burlington, Federal Mex, and Union Pacific to  
36 actually use this bypass and move some of the rail out of the Juarez and  
37 El Paso congested area. Phase two will take us into negotiations, the  
38 \$100,000 right now is actually paying for the negotiations with Chihuahua  
39 and Mexico City and the State of New Mexico and both state departments,  
40 both the State Department of Mexico and the State Department of the  
41 United States as we go into ANEPA we have to of course environmental  
42 and then we'll be doing a presidential permit. There's also another effort  
43 being done. I just heard from Senator Udall's office that they're thinking of  
44 maybe just doing phase one of this study and you can see where that is,  
45 you can see where it comes up from Samalayuca which is about 59 miles  
46 and then right at the border, the port of entry right there, you have only five

1 miles and you're at the UP intermodal. So they're looking at maybe just  
2 doing that five miles and having a short line that would work with Federal  
3 Mex, the Country of Mexico, State of Chihuahua, the State of New Mexico  
4 and just feed into that intermodal and not have to do the entire bypass all  
5 the way if that meets the main line of Burlington. But this is something  
6 that again is just in negotiations. Everybody's talking but nobody's signing  
7 anything. We do not have an MOU as yet, and I just met with Cabinet  
8 Secretary Tom Church Friday. We had about an hour discussion and he's  
9 allocating another \$400,000 to continue and get deeper into the study and  
10 the negotiations and the MOU. We have to have both Governors,  
11 Governor Corral and Governor Martinez actually sign an agreement for  
12 the railroads to make it a serious endeavor that both governments want  
13 this rail to happen. I've included in the packet the mission, why the rail is  
14 important, but I also included the coordinates. The alignment has been  
15 set. We know where it's going to, the right-of-way, and the actual \$100  
16 million of expense from Mexico to build this dual track, as of Friday with  
17 Arturo del la Fuentes indibin and SRE, the federal agencies in Mexico  
18 actually have located and earmarked \$50 million already of the project.  
19 So Mexico is far ahead of the State of New Mexico. We're just looking for  
20 \$2 million just to finish our study and they've already found \$50 million to  
21 build a rail. Their right-of-way is done, their coordinates are done and they  
22 actually have 50% of their project money in the bank. So that indicates to  
23 the United States and to New Mexico that the Federal Mex. And all the  
24 products and goods and services that want to brought though the State of  
25 New Mexico and into the United States, Canada, they're very serious  
26 about this international rail.

27 This is all the entities that we work with on a daily basis. I thought I  
28 was getting into an easy 20-hour a week job, but I found out that it's like  
29 stepping up to be a councillor or a mayor, you find out that all of a sudden  
30 that easy job goes to 60-70 hours a week. But we work a lot of these  
31 entities, there are quite a lot of meetings. I'll be short because I know all  
32 the meetings that you folks have. This is our Board of Directors. The way  
33 it was designed is Matt Geisel, Cabinet Secretary for EDD is our  
34 Chairperson. We have John Sanchez, we have Tom Church, Bill Connor,  
35 Reese Carson, Jay Spivey so we try to represent Luna County, Dona Ana  
36 County. And Joseph Dworak is the Attorney General sits on our Board.  
37 And all agreements, all contracts, all procurement, all our RFPs have to go  
38 through the Attorney General's office for the New Mexico Border Authority.  
39 So everything has to be signed off by them and I think that's probably a  
40 great policy. Executive Director Erika De La O is my deputy and she does  
41 a great job. She works a lot of the binational agreements. Marylou  
42 Casillas is a CFO and EDD that does our budget with David Espinoza.  
43 And David is a veteran and he's been with the Border Authority about two  
44 years and does a phenomenal job with watching our nickels and our  
45 dimes. I just want to thank you very much. If you have any questions,  
46 please.

1  
2 Eakman: Does anyone have questions?

3  
4 Sorg: A brief on.

5  
6 Eakman: Yes.

7  
8 Sorg: Mayor Mattiace if you remember Mayor Pro-Tem Thomas and I used to  
9 come down for those meetings that we had with Chihuahua and I'm sure  
10 El Paso and Sunland Park were all part of it. Are you still having such  
11 meetings?

12  
13 Mattiace: Yes. The last Thursday night I mentioned to Council that I will invite you,  
14 I'll put you all on here in my list so that you can join us in the next  
15 February or March meeting.

16  
17 Sorg: Okay, very good. Thank you.

18  
19 Mattiace: Thank you.

20  
21 Eakman: Other questions? Thank you so very much for your presentation.

22  
23 Mattiace: Thank you.

24  
25 Solis: Yes.

26  
27 **6.2 Committee Training: eSTIP procedures**

28  
29 Eakman: Moving on now. We're going to start with our buzzwords. Go right after it.

30  
31 Wray: Hopefully not too many buzzwords, but I do have a few acronyms for you.  
32 Thank you Mr. Chair and the purpose of this presentation is to create  
33 some familiarity on the part of the Committee with the NMDOT's new  
34 electronic STIP program. Taking advantage of the opportunity, just kind of  
35 do a little bit of a refresher for everyone's benefit as to what the nature of  
36 the TIP and the STIP are; the TIP is a document that this Policy  
37 Committee most frequently interacts with. The full name is the  
38 Transportation Improvement Program. It is a short-range fiscally  
39 constrained, four-year document that lists all of the funded programs for  
40 the MPO area. In addition there are also two so called out years that are  
41 included in the TIP as part of the policy of the State of New Mexico. All of  
42 the TIPs from around the state including the Mesilla Valley MPO go into  
43 what's known as the STIP or the Statewide Transportation Improvement  
44 Program. That is a document that is maintained by NMDOT and it  
45 contains all of the TIPs from around the state without alteration.

1 All regionally significant transportation projects that require action  
2 from FHWA or FTA are required to go on the TIP. Regionally significant is  
3 defined as a transportation project that's on a facility, functionally classified  
4 as kind of the reading there, accesses areas outside the region or major  
5 activity centers. According to the procedures manual, this will include at a  
6 minimum all the principle arterials and fixed guideway transit facilities.  
7 And also all capital and non-capital transportation projects that are FTA  
8 funded.

9 The Committee will no doubt remember last year we did a call for  
10 projects and approved the current TIP that we're under, the 2018-2023.  
11 The MPO is required to publicize and open call for projects every two  
12 years, although projects can be suggested and put onto the TIP  
13 throughout the year. There is an amendment cycle that is required for  
14 changes to the TIP including if projects are being added or if a change is  
15 being made. There's a cycle that is to be followed. There is a very limited  
16 basis for allowing out of cycle amendments, but it is emphasized by  
17 NMDOT that is to be used rarely.

18 Now historically the TIP and also the STIP were contained in a  
19 Microsoft Access database. All of the MPOs around the state and DOT up  
20 in Santa Fe had access to the same database shell. MPO staff would  
21 input the information into the access database and then create exports out  
22 of that database that we would then submit to NMDOT staff to compile into  
23 the STIP. That was done up in Santa Fe. And then the state staff would  
24 then submit that to the Transportation Commission for their approval and  
25 then afterwards then it would go to FHWA.

26 Last year, it's been in process for a while but last year NMDOT  
27 finally stood up the new STIP management reporting tool, so called  
28 eSTIP, the electronic STIP. It's a web-based application. It's  
29 advantageous in the sense that anybody in the world with an internet  
30 connection can go to the eSTIP website and take a look at all of the  
31 projects that have been approved that are in the STIP in the State of New  
32 Mexico. We have the URL there on the screen and I will make sure that  
33 everyone has that URL after today's meeting so that anyone can go in  
34 there and look. All the Mesilla Valley MPO projects that were approved by  
35 the Policy Committee including the last amendment, all of those are in  
36 there and you can also take a peak at what's going on in Farmington or  
37 Albuquerque or El Paso, they're all up there. Again all of the MPOs  
38 across New Mexico now utilize the eSTIP.

39 We will however continue to post a Mesilla Valley MPO specific TIP  
40 report to our website as we have historically with the previous access  
41 database. However we will have to utilize the NMDOT eSTIP forms for  
42 the reports now. We no longer really have the latitude to edit those  
43 ourselves, so we will be utilizing one of the eSTIP reports. And this is just,  
44 please don't strain your eyes trying to read this too carefully, but this is a  
45 comparison of the older report which I'm sure you're familiar with on the  
46 left with the new report on the right. In taking a little bit of a closer detailed

1 look here, there is less information contained on this new report than what  
2 was on there historically, but all of the sort of mission critical information is  
3 still here, you can still see the point of contact for the lead agency, in this  
4 case it's District 1 NMDOT. The lead agency is listed there. The total cost  
5 is listed. The construction start. The county that it's taking place in which  
6 for this MPO it will always be Dona Ana County. A project title. And then  
7 down here in the meat and potatoes of the actual financial information. I'll  
8 pause just if anybody has any questions before I move on to the next  
9 slide. Thank you Mr. Chair.

10 The timeline of the TIP remains unchanged by this transition. And  
11 largely the information that's required from the jurisdictions is going to  
12 remain unchanged with one very important difference and we gave this  
13 presentation to our Technical Advisory Committee last week, so this is  
14 definitely going to be very applicable for them since the staffs will be the  
15 ones assembling the information, but going forward all TIP projects are  
16 going to have to demonstrate support of adopted performance measures  
17 as part of their project justification. Right now we've got safety  
18 performance measures that this Committee adopted late last year. We  
19 also have transit asset management performance measures again that  
20 this Committee adopted last year. Projects going forward are going to  
21 have to demonstrate support of that if it's anyway applicable. Now we do  
22 understand that there will be projects that really in no way directly tie to  
23 performance measures that we have right now, in that case then a not  
24 applicable statement will suffice, but we do want to make sure we  
25 emphasize this last week to the staffs, that performance measures have to  
26 be addressed one way or the other, they can't just leave that spot blank. If  
27 it's not applicable then they have to go to the effort of saying not  
28 applicable, but also with the caveat as time goes forward there will be  
29 more performance measures that come down. So at some point in the  
30 future there is basically not going to be a TIP project that will come down  
31 the pike that is not in some way going to be impacted by adopted  
32 performance measures. So we made that very clear to the staffs, just be  
33 ready to justify on the basis of performance measures all the projects that  
34 the jurisdictions will be bringing forward. And that concludes my  
35 presentation. I will stand now for any questions.

36  
37 Eakman: Are there any questions for Mr. Wray? Any questions? Hearing none.  
38 Thank you Andrew for the presentation.

39  
40 Wray: Thank you Mr. Chair.

### 41 42 **6.3 MPO Bylaw Review**

43  
44 Eakman: I think now we'll hear from Mr. Murphy.  
45

1 Murphy: Thank you Mr. Chair. In last month's meeting during the election of  
2 officers we had a discussion about the rotation of the chair and some  
3 other issues of that. So that prompted me to want to discuss with the  
4 Committee as a whole our bylaws, it's been a few years since we  
5 reviewed them, so I wanted to kind of walk through them, more familiarize  
6 new members of the Committee with the bylaws. And also see if there are  
7 any suggested changes that we make to them.  
8 So let's start on page two of the bylaws which were just handed out.  
9 So the introduction, the second paragraph I want to clean up some, the  
10 last sentence I feel is clumsy. I think we need to move the examples of  
11 the Metropolitan Transportation Plan Unified Planning Work Program and  
12 public participation plan next to planning our policies, the line up and  
13 separate it from other member agencies in that sentence. It's a minor  
14 grammatical change.  
15 Then we start getting into the bylaws that spell out the authority of  
16 the Policy Committee. The Policy Committee is established by the Joint  
17 Powers Agreement that all of the member governments are signatory to,  
18 but beyond that the bylaws then establish the officers for the committee.  
19 And at this point I think I'd like to get some feedback from the Committee,  
20 do we want to formalize the rotation that historically has been done where  
21 the chair rotates between the County, the Town, and the City, and then  
22 the Vice-Chair also rotates. So I'll pause if there's any comments.  
23  
24 Eakman: Councillor Flores.  
25  
26 Flores: No, I'd rather keep it, for myself I'd rather keep it informal so that should  
27 something come up we have that flexibility.  
28  
29 Eakman: Thank you Trustee. Are there other comments on this?  
30  
31 Solis: Mr. Chair.  
32  
33 Eakman: Yes.  
34  
35 Solis: Are we talking about the selection for the chair and how it's selected at the  
36 end of each year?  
37  
38 Eakman: We are. Yes.  
39  
40 Solis: Okay. I think I read on the minutes about how it was going back and forth  
41 last time. So are we saying that you'd prefer to have it on a cycle or just to  
42 have it open to where anyone can, is that what we're discussing?  
43  
44 Eakman: That is what we're discussing.  
45  
46 Solis: Just to make sure.

1  
2 Eakman: Trustee Flores just expressed her opinion that we keep it informal.  
3  
4 Solis: Informal. Okay. Thank you.  
5  
6 Eakman: Councillor Sorg.  
7  
8 Sorg: Thank you Mr. Chair. I concur with Trustee Flores.  
9  
10 Eakman: Did you have anything Trent?  
11  
12 Doolittle: Thank you Mr. Chair. I tend to agree. I've sat through a couple of  
13 different cycles of changes of administration and depending on who's at  
14 the board. I think the county had some concerns when they first came on  
15 just the knowledge of how the MPO works, so I tend to agree. I like it  
16 being more informal.  
17  
18 Eakman: Consensus is informal.  
19  
20 Sorg: In fact that assures us that our present Chairman will remain as Chairman  
21 for several years.  
22  
23 Eakman: He is kidding.  
24  
25 Murphy: You just have to keep him from nominating you next year. So staff will not  
26 work on any changes with that. On page three, the next item I'd like to call  
27 out is near the top of the page, B, alternate member. Kind of point out for  
28 the two members that if you're unable to attend a meeting that under  
29 current bylaws you may appoint another member of your governing body  
30 to sit in your position, your place for that meeting. I would like to have the  
31 discussion whether we could expand that to maybe that a top staff  
32 member of your government could also sit in your place. We've had some  
33 meetings in the past where we've come close to not meeting quorum and I  
34 think that if more people are aware of the alternate member or if it was  
35 more flexible that we would not run into those situations. I think there  
36 looks like some ready discussion.  
37  
38 Eakman: Yes.  
39  
40 Flores: Actually I had made a mark on that to suggest just that. Particularly for  
41 Mesilla, we only have four Trustees and the Mayor, so it's really hard to fill  
42 these committees when things come up. So it would be very helpful to be  
43 able to sent a staff member.  
44  
45 Eakman: Thank you Trustee Flores. Other comments?  
46

1 Solis: Mr. Chair.  
2  
3 Eakman: Yes Commissioner.  
4  
5 Solis: I think that I agree with what Trustee Flores is saying about have an  
6 alternate. I mean we do have three Commissioners listed here and I'm the  
7 only one here today, but if I weren't here the last time I think you all had  
8 trouble getting a quorum, so I agree, I think we should have a proxy or  
9 alternate from like maybe the Assistant County Manager, one of the  
10 assistant County Managers that perhaps could be in our stead. Thank  
11 you.  
12  
13 Eakman: Any comment Councillor Sorg?  
14  
15 Sorg: I see the day when staff is up here instead of an elected official, but I'm  
16 okay with that. I'm okay with that.  
17  
18 Eakman: The one reason I'm okay with it is I think there's even more continuity with  
19 a staff member being a proxy than rotating between elected officials that  
20 don't even know what the purpose of the MPO might be when they're  
21 visiting.  
22  
23 Sorg: Yeah.  
24  
25 Eakman: So there might be an advantage that way. Yes Trent.  
26  
27 Doolittle: I just want to expand a little bit on that based on some of my experience  
28 with the El Paso MPO. Very similar to what Councillor Sorg mentioned. I  
29 know it's further along in the bylaws, but my concern is then staff becomes  
30 permanent. And if that's the goal of the board, then I think that's okay, but  
31 I think there should be some language, even maybe expanding on the  
32 removal procedure, if the intent is just to have a proxy periodically, what  
33 happens if a proxy becomes a six-month substitute. So I think there  
34 certainly should be discussion and language tied to a proxy and how many  
35 times if this Policy Board does not want it to move towards a more  
36 technical. Right, we already have a Technical Committee, so if that's not  
37 the intent of this Policy Board, I think there should be some language tied  
38 to how many times a proxy can sit in before they then be considered  
39 absent or derelict in their responsibilities to this Board.  
40  
41 Solis: Mr. Chair.  
42  
43 Eakman: Yes.  
44  
45 Solis: I agree with that statement because that can be really true, you know then  
46 we just kind of forget that our responsibility. And every now and again I



1 can see using a proxy, but I believe that we should have some sort of  
2 language in there indicating you know whatever those guidelines may be.  
3 Thank you.

4  
5 Eakman: Question Mr. Murphy. Are we living up to number one? Are we actually  
6 enforcing C1? Or are we winking?

7  
8 Murphy: Mr. Chair. No we have never sought to actively enforce that. And people  
9 behind me know what Mr. Chair's referring to is under section C there's an  
10 attendance requirement for Committee Members that they need to attend  
11 75% of Policy Committee meetings in a 12-month calendar period. And  
12 then if later on a Member were to fail that and then I think it needs to be a  
13 joint agreement between myself and the Chair, we can then bring forward  
14 to this Committee and essentially remove that Committee Member for  
15 malfeasance or nonfeasance of office. We require a five-vote expulsion.  
16 And I think the reasons we've not actively enforced that in the past is that  
17 then again nothing that is in the JPA or the bylaws would prevent the  
18 governing body from reappointing that same person or also as some of  
19 you have stated, the selection pool of who to assign to this Committee is  
20 limited. So I think historically most no one's failed that 75% too  
21 consistently and if they had they then sometimes turned themselves  
22 around, but, no we've never enforced it.

23  
24 Eakman: Mr. Doolittle.

25  
26 Doolittle: Thank you Mr. Chair. Again relying on my experience with the El Paso  
27 MPO. Even if that 75%, I think we have 10 meetings a year, is that  
28 correct? Because we miss two months.

29  
30 Murphy: Either nine or ten.

31  
32 Doolittle: So if we wanted to adjust that 75% to be a little more flexible tied to the  
33 availability of the Board and representatives that can sit in for each entity, I  
34 think we should have that discussion. But what El Paso does is even  
35 when you send a proxy, you're still considered absent from that meeting.  
36 So it counts against you toward that. It allows us to continue with quorum,  
37 but it still counts as an absence. And then what happens is if you exceed  
38 your number of absences you lose your voting privilege. So that  
39 encourages the members of that board to come and participate. Again  
40 that may be a little bit harsh just because that board is again substantially  
41 larger than this one, but something to certainly consider.

42  
43 Eakman: Any other comment on this?

44  
45 Sorg: Yes Mr. Chair.

1     Eakman:     Councillor Sorg.  
2  
3     Sorg:       In a related matter going back four more years there was a discussion on  
4               the Policy Committee here of expanding the membership to other types of  
5               people and we were kind of getting that idea from what El Paso MPO  
6               does. El Paso MPO has elected officials from the state that serve on their  
7               MPO. And there was discussion at the time to invite some of our state  
8               representatives to the meeting here, but it seems like it never got off the  
9               ground and I doubt if any state representative, maybe new ones would be  
10              interested in doing that. So I was thinking to myself that if the County and  
11              the Town of Mesilla being that there's only five members on their two  
12              governing bodies, if they would be interested in just going two instead of  
13              three members of the MPO and then have other representation. It's an  
14              idea. I don't know if that would be what they're interested in doing or not  
15              but, thinking out loud here.  
16  
17     Flores:     I can respond to that. We've had that issue when we were redoing the  
18               Joint Powers Agreement and the bylaws and Mesilla's not in favor of  
19               cutting its representatives.  
20  
21     Eakman:     If I may, I'm going to take a little discretion of the Chair here. If we're not  
22               following a policy, we don't have a policy. And so I'd appreciate it if staff  
23               would prepare a letter to be signed by me reminding all members of the  
24               MPO of this policy and then we intend to enforce it. Would that be all  
25               right?  
26  
27     Flores:     I'm in agreement with that.  
28  
29     Doolittle:   Yes.  
30  
31     Sorg:       Yes.  
32  
33     Flores:     Yes.  
34  
35     Solis:       Thank you Mr. Chair for that.  
36  
37     Eakman:     Thank you. Go ahead Mr. Murphy.  
38  
39     Murphy:     All right so moving on. I think I got some ideas we'll move through the  
40               committee process to get some changes up to you in the next couple  
41               meetings on this part of the section. Let's see, I would imagine that, the  
42               next section of the, actually I wanted to pause on Councillor Sorg's  
43               comments on the state representatives for the, under E, the committee is  
44               allowed to appoint ex-officio members to put state reps on as voting  
45               members, It would necessitate a change in the JPA which is a lengthy,  
46               involved process. But we did extend invitations to the state deligation a

1 few years back and we did not get responses, so I don't think any of the  
2 people at the time were interested in serving in an ex-officio capacity. But  
3 we can always revisit that at any point.

4 The rest of the Policy Committee bylaws schedule with the meeting  
5 schedules. We have regular meetings, special meetings, emergency  
6 meetings, special meetings we've had in the past when they've been  
7 scheduled, we have missed quorum and we've needed to get a TIP  
8 amendment approved. Emergency meeting, I think this is something  
9 that's delves from the Open Meetings Act, we're required to have it, but I  
10 cannot think of a life/safety issue with long range transportation planning  
11 so that's never been used. We have the quorum set here five members,  
12 with each governing body represented and if we're unable to make that  
13 we're unable to have the meeting. And then the voting procedure, yea or  
14 nays and show of hands essentially up to the Chair's discretion.

15  
16 Eakman: May I interject there?

17  
18 Murphy: Yes sir.

19  
20 Eakman: We do have to modify number one because it says by ballot and by ballot  
21 is just not allowed by the Open Meetings Act. We have to do every thing  
22 in public transparently, so I think we should be removing that one because  
23 even if we don't use it, it appears like we might be doing something we're  
24 not allowed to so.

25  
26 Murphy: We will remove it. Okay and then number three we do allow for telephonic  
27 votes. If a member is unable to attend a meeting we do allow based on  
28 the rest of the Committee's discretion for them to participate by phone.  
29 We've used that a few times in the past to allow us some quorum when  
30 someone's been out of town.

31  
32 Eakman: Mr. Murphy could you add one thing here just administratively? Could you  
33 on each agenda put in the call in number so that somebody would have  
34 that if something changes at the last minute and they can't leave their  
35 office, they could still participate? But not knowing that number puts us at  
36 a disadvantage.

37  
38 Murphy: Mr. Chair I think my preference on that would be to notify by the member  
39 prior to the meeting and then we can arrange that. If we put a call-in  
40 number on the agenda I would anticipate staff and four members sitting  
41 around waiting to see if the phone rang. So I think we can always give  
42 them the call in number if they inform us that that's their intention.

43  
44 Eakman: I guess my only point is there are so many times we don't know. A  
45 hopping mad constituent comes into our office right when we're ready to

1 leave. I'm just one voice. Does anybody else have an opinion? Hearing  
2 none. Yes, Councillor Sorg.  
3  
4 Sorg: I was just reading them, the second paragraph on our agenda here.  
5 There is a number there. Where will that number take us if we called it?  
6 The 528-3043.  
7  
8 Murphy: That would take you to the City of Las Cruces Community Development  
9 Department secretary.  
10  
11 Sorg: Okay. Thank you. That's all I wanted to know.  
12  
13 Murphy: We can add that. Or actually on second thought we can put that in your  
14 packets delivery, because the packet is public information so I'm not sure  
15 we want to have the call-in number for here or the Council Chambers  
16 advertised where anyone in the world could essentially know it and call it.  
17  
18 Eakman: I wonder if you'd indulge me to have this on as a possible action item for  
19 our next meeting for more discussion. We have time to think about it a  
20 little more.  
21  
22 Murphy: Okay.  
23  
24 Eakman: Mr. Doolittle. Thank you.  
25  
26 Murphy: Okay. Moving on to page six, the next item is where we deal with the  
27 Technical Advisory Committee. This establishes the governments that we  
28 have participating on that board. They are appointed by their  
29 governments. We do have an attendance requirement for them and I  
30 wanted to discuss with this body about I guess possibly lowering that  
31 threshold of the 75% or do we need to more actively enforce that. We  
32 have been raising the issue with the TAC members themselves. We have  
33 seen some improvement in their attendance, but again I guess how does  
34 this Board want to proceed with those issues?  
35  
36 Eakman: Mr. Doolittle.  
37  
38 Doolittle: Thank you Mr. Chair. So being a technical person and this Board relying  
39 heavily on the recommendations of the TAC, in my mind I think that one  
40 should probably be more strict than even this Board. That's just my  
41 personal opinion. I don't know if you've been having issues with  
42 attendance at the TAC, if we removed voting members or voting privileges  
43 from them because of lack of attendance, but I think because of the  
44 recommendations that come to this Board for action, I think that they  
45 should be very involved at that level.  
46

1 Eakman: Do we have other comments at this time? Once again, why don't we  
2 enforce what we have on the books before we change something? I'm  
3 willing to sign more letters.  
4  
5 Murphy: All right. And then the final section of the bylaws and starting on page  
6 nine covers the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee, I would offer  
7 up no changes on this one, however I would note on this Committee in the  
8 past three years we have removed two members for nonfeasance of office  
9 and if some of you have been on the Board long enough, remember those  
10 issues coming forward and that was based on the recommendation of the  
11 BPAC Chair. So I guess possibly if I could back to TAC, one of the  
12 changes we might make is that instead of the chair and the MPO officer,  
13 we could make it the chair or the MPO officer.  
14  
15 Eakman: I think that sounds agreeable.  
16  
17 Murphy: So I guess based on what I've heard, staff will work up some changes.  
18 We will run it through the committees and hopefully have an action item  
19 back to you in the next meeting or so.  
20  
21 Eakman: Mr. Doolittle.  
22  
23 Doolittle: I'm sorry I do have one more question. Tom on page five, I don't know if I  
24 missed it or, paragraph B, the executive subcommittee. I'm not aware that  
25 we've ever had an executive subcommittee. So do we make that optional  
26 or are we supposed to have one?  
27  
28 Murphy: Mr. Chair, Mr. Doolittle. I do believe that's kind of optional. I don't have  
29 real strong memory of how we came across with this one. I think we were  
30 expecting some issues where we would need some kind of emergency  
31 action on a TIP amendment or something and where would be impractical  
32 to convene the entire board where we could just have the chair and vice-  
33 chair and one other member, I think it was something we had placed in  
34 hoping that it would evolve further and it just never really went anywhere.  
35  
36 Eakman: Mr. Doolittle, some more.  
37  
38 Doolittle: If I can expand just a little bit. So I serve on the executive committee in El  
39 Paso and really the intent of that committee is to take the  
40 recommendations from the technical group, then review it with the  
41 executive committee at a policy level so that they can then, they kind of  
42 play the middleman between the technical and the policy. And in this case  
43 I think because we tend to have those discussions as a board and it's a  
44 smaller policy board here, I don't know that the executive committee would  
45 serve much of a function. We really haven't needed it and maybe that's  
46 why we don't, but that's just my opinion.

1  
2 Eakman: Trustee Flores.

3  
4 Flores: I kind of like to leave it there just in case in the future we decide that we  
5 need it. I know we've done these before, maybe Councillor Sorg will  
6 remember when we were trying to have a statewide meeting of MPOs, I  
7 was on that board and it allowed us some flexibility so that the whole  
8 Policy Committee didn't have to be here. We basically got some plans  
9 together and then presented them to the Policy Committee. So I think it  
10 can be helpful at times and I'd like to keep a tool in the toolbox even if we  
11 don't use it most of the time.

12  
13 Eakman: Mr. Doolittle you had something else?

14  
15 Doolittle: I agree with Trustee Flores. The only thing that caught me off guard or  
16 maybe that brought it to my attention is all the other committees are  
17 broken out, they list their responsibilities, their membership and this one is  
18 a paragraph underneath the committees listing, so I just didn't know if it  
19 was optional. I know paragraph A talks about reserving the right. It's just  
20 the formatting seemed a little different than the other committees. So  
21 maybe we can clean it up that it is optional based on board  
22 recommendations or something. It's just not real clear to me.

23  
24 Eakman: Are there other comments? My comment would be I'd also like to see this  
25 being available when we're having 60 days in between meetings and we  
26 need decisions to be made, I think this could use a little wordsmithing so  
27 that we do have it in reserve when absolutely necessary, but no way does  
28 the executive subcommittee usurp the authority of the full MPO Policy  
29 group. So if you could take a stab at something like that I'd be  
30 appreciative. Thank you.

31  
32 **6.4 NMDOT Update**

33  
34 Eakman: Next topic. I guess that's you Mr. Doolittle.

35  
36 Doolittle: I think I've said enough today.

37  
38 Eakman: Thank you Mr. Doolittle.

39  
40 Doolittle: My update will be very brief. We still continue to move forward with the  
41 Spitz and Three Crosses project. We're still expected to be finished  
42 sometime towards the end of April with the main construction project. We  
43 may have some punch list work, some clean up stuff to do, but for the  
44 most part come April we will be finished with that intersection.

45 The other one I wanted to give a brief update on was Valley Drive.  
46 We did as I mentioned last month open bids on that project. We're

1 currently in the bid review process. The original STIP funding for that  
2 project was \$16 million, bids came in at \$24 million. The department has  
3 committed and found funding to accommodate the difference in our  
4 portion. I was talking to the Chairman before the meeting and I misspoke  
5 a little bit. Tomorrow it's my understanding the Utility Board will be  
6 discussing the increased portion of the City's utility work which comes up  
7 to about \$970,000 plus taxes, that's in addition to the previous  
8 commitment that we have from the City. So I would encourage anybody  
9 who has some input into that to really look at that. If we are unable to  
10 acquire the full \$24 million that project will be pulled. Potentially put on a  
11 shelf for future bid. Not changing the design, but without the commitment  
12 from the City we cannot afford to move forward on this project. I really  
13 don't see that being an issue, but I only wanted to bring that up because  
14 that is our next big project in the area.

15 One more that I just realized we continue to move forward with  
16 project development at University and I-25. We've been working real  
17 close with City staff and NMSU on landscaping, architectural design,  
18 aesthetic work, but we're still planning on bidding that project towards the  
19 end of next year. That's when our engineers estimate just went way up  
20 based on prices of Valley Drive, so we'll see what we can do to fund that  
21 one. That's really all we have ongoing in the area at this time. And I'll  
22 stand for any questions.

23  
24 Sorg: Mr. Chairman.

25  
26 Eakman: Yes Councillor Sorg.

27  
28 Sorg: Mr. Doolittle is correct, we will be taking that up at the Utilities Board of  
29 Commissioners tomorrow. Did you say \$900?

30  
31 Eakman: \$970,000 he said.

32  
33 Sorg: Just less than \$1,000?

34  
35 Eakman: Million.

36  
37 Doolittle: \$967,000 plus tax.

38  
39 Sorg: Thousand. Okay. That's a little different.

40  
41 Doolittle: Yes. That's the City portion based on current bid tabs.

42  
43 Sorg: Okay. I have another question. Do you know when the project on  
44 Highway 70 from Elks Drive to Del Rey is going to be done? When is that  
45 scheduled? That's the resurfacing.  
46

1 Doolittle: I'll defer to Jolene.  
2  
3 Sorg: Thank you Jolene for being here.  
4  
5 Herrera: Good afternoon. Jolene Herrera NMDOT. Right now we have that one on  
6 the schedule to let next April. So April of 2019.  
7  
8 Sorg: Okay.  
9  
10 Herrera: We're going to have it on the shelf and prepared beforehand though and  
11 hopefully put it out the door sooner than that. That's our intention. We  
12 don't have a time frame on that. It really just depends on if extra money  
13 comes or if one of the other districts drops one of their projects and we  
14 can scoop up that funding and send it out the door.  
15  
16 Sorg: Okay.  
17  
18 Herrera: But we'll keep you informed if that does happen. It'll have to go through  
19 the MPO.  
20  
21 Sorg: Yeah I remember voting on it not too long ago, a couple three, four, five  
22 months ago.  
23  
24 Herrera: Yeah.  
25  
26 Sorg: Okay. Just curious. Thank you Mr. Chairman.  
27  
28 Eakman: Any other questions for Mr. Doolittle? Because Mr. Doolittle I do have  
29 one. Could you give me some insight into how the department was off by  
30 50% between the estimates and the bids on Valley Drive?  
31  
32 Doolittle: Mr. Chair. No. I'm just kidding Mr. Chair. You know recently statewide,  
33 and we really don't have a good response why, but statewide we're seeing  
34 an increase in our projects. As I mentioned the University estimate is now  
35 \$12 million higher than it was six or eight weeks ago. The department had  
36 a project that was bid in Los Alamos, it's now bid three times. Ultimately  
37 it's come in at about 50% over engineer's estimate. And I've seen even  
38 simple projects, fencing projects, pavement preservation projects, signal  
39 and lighting projects are coming in 30%, 40%, 50% higher than  
40 engineering estimates. I don't have a good answer for you Mr. Chair. I  
41 know that's not what you wanted to hear. We continue to evaluate those  
42 bids to try to figure out why. I don't really know. But the impact is we're  
43 having to move projects. You know Jolene talked about the STIP, we're  
44 having to move projects, a lot of the redistribution that we as a district  
45 have benefited from in the past couple of years is going to pay for these



1 increased bids compared to engineer's estimates. It just seems to be the  
2 construction community right now for some reason.

3  
4 Eakman: I appreciate the response. I'll be looking forward to your department  
5 figuring out what's happening here. Thank you.

6  
7 Doolittle: Mr. Chair if I may. I will say that it seems to be more so in our urbanized  
8 areas. I don't know if that's tied to the traffic, to the risk of what they're  
9 going to encounter underneath the roadways. The Los Alamos project  
10 was in town very similar to Valley Drive. The Spitz/Three Crosses was  
11 actually fairly close to the engineer's estimate. So what happened  
12 between Spitz and Three Crosses and the University project, I don't know.  
13 Because the original estimate on Valley was utilizing the costs from Spitz  
14 and Three Crosses. So I'll continue to monitor, but that's a good question.  
15 I will try to get you some answers from the staff at the general office  
16 because they're monitoring this statewide and I'll try to have that for you at  
17 the next Policy Board meeting.

18  
19 Eakman: Very much appreciate it. Mr. Murphy did you have something else for us  
20 at this time?

## 21 22 **7. COMMITTEE AND STAFF COMMENTS**

23  
24 Murphy: Yes, three staff comments. Number one, we are in the public comment  
25 period for the fiscal year 2019 and fiscal year 2020 Unified Planning Work  
26 Program. We kicked that off at the TAC meeting last week. We do have  
27 the draft document posted on our website where you can download it and  
28 it's available under the new section under the front page of our website.

29 Second comment, we're working with the City of Las Cruces  
30 Community Development Department on development of their Active  
31 Transportation Plan. And their website is [www.activelascruces.com](http://www.activelascruces.com). And  
32 of pertinent current news is there's currently a live survey available. That's  
33 to assess walking and biking conditions in the area and it's available in  
34 English and in Spanish. We encourage everybody to take it and to pass  
35 word of it on to their constituents.

36  
37 Sorg: Mr. Chairman.

38  
39 Eakman: Yes Councillor Sorg.

40  
41 Sorg: Can somebody go from the City website to the MPO website? Is there a  
42 link on the City website for the MPO?

43  
44 Murphy: Yes I believe there are two and we link to the City website on their  
45 resources. I know there's one under department. I thought there was a  
46 front page one they used to have, they must have changed that. So the

1 way to get to our website from the City's is to go to government,  
2 departments. Actually under the departments we're listed up here under  
3 partner agencies. We are also accessible through the Community  
4 Development webpage where there's a basic introduction and then a  
5 pointer to our website. So there are many options to get there.  
6

7 Sorg: Thank you. That's good to know.  
8

9 Eakman: Thank you Mr. Murphy. Are there any Committee comments today?  
10

11 Murphy: I have one more. Yes and I think it might be similar. We understand that  
12 Trustee Flores is not running for reelection at next month's Mesilla  
13 election. So staff on behalf of the MPO we would like to present you a  
14 plaque commemorating your service with the MPO. You've been on this  
15 Board from 2010 to 2018. You served as Vice-Chair in 2011. You served  
16 as Chair in 2012, 2015, and 2017. And speaking for staff we really do  
17 appreciate the leadership that you provided during those years. Thank  
18 you.  
19

20 Flores: I was just going to thank everybody on the Board. It's been a great  
21 experience working with you. And especially thank the staff for all of their  
22 work and professionalism. It's nice to know how hard public employees  
23 work for the public. So thank you.  
24

25 Eakman: I thank you very much Trustee Flores. I've learned so much because  
26 you've been so patient with our learning curve and at the same time  
27 drawing us forward very politely. I appreciate that.  
28

29 Sorg: You will be missed.  
30

31 Solis: I really appreciate you being on this board. I think that you've been an  
32 inspiration although I've missed several meetings, but you always come to  
33 the table with a smile and I really appreciate someone with a smile  
34 because it provides that positive energy. So thank you for all that you  
35 have done in the past years.  
36

37 Eakman: Truly we appreciate you Trustee Flores. Are there any other staff  
38 comments? How about Committee comments? Hearing none.  
39

## 40 **8. PUBLIC COMMENT** 41

42 Eakman: We'll turn to our public again for more of their comments. Are there more  
43 comments from the public? Oh Mayor Mattiace, okay.  
44

45 Mattiace: Okay I'm going to put on my advocacy hat. I'm going to share a bill that I  
46 believe Representative Nathan Small. I gave away one copy so maybe if

1 Mr. Doolittle and Ms. Flores can share. I just wanted to be on the record  
2 that the staff of the New Mexico Border Authority is opposing this bill. And  
3 on the grounds if you look on page one, two, at the bottom of page two,  
4 the VIA actually injected this into the bill. We were making some changes  
5 on the binational board and the binational advisory committee, but for  
6 some reason the developers and the VIA introduced this bill that actually  
7 does zoning, annexations, platting, and land development. And we  
8 believe that's not in the mission of the New Mexico Border Authority. So  
9 based on that we sent in an opposition analysis. This just usurps the  
10 power not only of Dona Ana County but it actually prohibits the growth of  
11 the city of Sunland Park from ever growing west and so we feel this was a  
12 very serious injection. The new material's called the economic zone, the  
13 special economic zone. So I just wanted to be on the record. Thank you  
14 Mr. Chairman. Any questions?

15  
16 Eakman: Are there any questions? Thank you so much for that. Any other public  
17 comments? Hearing none.

18  
19 **9. ADJOURNMENT (2:17 PM)**

20  
21 Eakman: We are adjourned. Thank you.

22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27 \_\_\_\_\_  
Chairperson

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## **METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION**

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### **MESILLA VALLEY METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION POLICY COMMITTEE DISCUSSION FORM FOR THE MEETING OF April 11, 2018**

#### **AGENDA ITEM:**

6.1 MPO 101 Training

#### **DISCUSSION:**

Mesilla Valley MPO Staff will present to the Policy Committee on the contents of the Mesilla Valley MPO 101 book created by MPO Staff and distributed to all of the MPO committee members.

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### MESILLA VALLEY METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION POLICY COMMITTEE DISCUSSION FORM FOR THE MEETING OF April 11, 2018

#### AGENDA ITEM:

6.2 Destino 2045 Comment Period

#### DISCUSSION:

The El Paso MPO is currently updating their Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) named Destino 2045.

The public comment period for Destino 2045 closed on April 9.

Mesilla Valley MPO Staff wishes to inform the Policy Committee of the comments it submitted to the El Paso MPO with regards to Destino 2045.

The comment was as follows:

“The Mesilla Valley MPO is concerned by the lack of reference in Destino 2045 to a potential passenger rail connection between El Paso and Las Cruces. This connection is identified as a priority in the City of Las Cruces Strategic Plan 2017-2022 for the year 2022: [http://www.las-cruces.org/~media/lcpublicwebdev2/site%20documents/article%20documents/strategic\\_plan-english.ashx?la=en](http://www.las-cruces.org/~media/lcpublicwebdev2/site%20documents/article%20documents/strategic_plan-english.ashx?la=en). An El Paso-Las Cruces passenger rail connection was studied by the South Central Regional Transit District in the South Central Regional Transit District Passenger Rail Feasibility Study done in 2017. The Mesilla Valley MPO would like to see reference to an El Paso-Las Cruces passenger rail connection in Destino 2045.

Additionally, the Mesilla Valley MPO included the Rio Grande bike path in our most recent Metropolitan Transportation Plan update. We encourage the El Paso MPO to look into extending that trail in the New Mexico portion of the El Paso MPO and into Texas.”

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**MESILLA VALLEY METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION  
POLICY COMMITTEE  
DISCUSSION FORM FOR THE MEETING OF April 11, 2018**

**AGENDA ITEM:**

6.4 Committee Attendance

April 11, 2018

Mesilla Valley MPO Policy Committee

RE: Our Important Mission

Dear Colleagues:

As I take on the role of chair of the MPO that you have entrusted me, for this year I would like to stress the importance of our work. This is the only forum in the region that allows our governments to regularly sit together as one group. Here we can build collaborative relationships that strengthen the region. There are many emerging issues, like activity at the border, that we need to keep each other informed so that we can make better decisions. Both here and in our home boards.

Not only does the MPO need each of our jurisdictions present to legally hold a meeting, we benefit from having individual views from each jurisdiction. So, while I request you each attend every meeting as you are able, I also offer you a reminder and a request that if you are unable to personally attend a meeting, the MPO bylaws allow for you to appoint a proxy from your governing board to represent you.

Sincerely,

Jack Eakman, City of Las Cruces Councillor  
Mesilla Valley MPO Chair

cc:

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