

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 March 17, 2015 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 Scott Farnham (City of Las Cruces Rep)
11 David Shearer (NMSU - Environmental Safety)
12 Jolene Herrera (NMDOT Rep)
13 Ashleigh Curry (Town of Mesilla Citizen)
14 Albert Casillas (DAC Rep)

15
16 **MEMBERS ABSENT:** Leslie Kryder, Vice Chair (Bicycle Community Rep)
17 Mark Leisher (DAC Citizen Rep)
18 Karen Rishel (Bicycling Community Bicycle Rep)
19 Carlos Coontz (Pedestrian Committee Rep)

20
21 **STAFF PRESENT:** Tom Murphy (MPO)
22 Andrew Wray (MPO)
23 Michael McAdams (MPO)
24 Sharon Nebbia (MPO)

25
26 **PUBLIC PRESENT:** Derrick Pacheco

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

29
30 **1. CALL TO ORDER**

31
32 Pearson: It's 5:05. I'll call to order the Bicycle Pedestrian Facilities Advisory
33 Committee of the Mesilla Valley MPO.

34
35 **2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

36
37 Pearson: We have approval of the agenda. Any comments or changes for the
38 agenda?

39
40 Murphy: None from staff.

41
42 Pearson: Hearing none, I'll hear a motion to approve the agenda as presented.

43
44 Shearer: I move to approve the agenda as presented.

45
46 Curry: I'll second.

1
2 Pearson: We have a motion and a second. All in order, "aye." Any opposed?
3 That's approved.
4

5 MOTION IS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.
6

7 3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

8 3.1 January 20, 2015

9
10
11 Pearson: So next is approval of the minutes. Any comments on the minutes?
12

13 Murphy: Staff received a couple of corrections on, on membership listings from Ms.
14 Curry. We can go ahead and make those administrative, Albert being a, a
15 DAC rep not a citizen's rep and Ashleigh being a Town of Mesilla citizen
16 not Town of Mesilla staff but we can change that administratively.
17

18 Pearson: Okay. So any further comments on the minutes? So hear a motion to
19 approve the minutes with the administrative changes?
20

21 Shearer: *(inaudible)* action items *(inaudible)*
22

23 Pearson: So your question is if we have action items in the agenda? Well anything
24 that's on the agenda has to be published ahead of time so if any action
25 items would have to be on the agenda already and the only action item is
26 the approval of the minutes. So any other, motion to approve the
27 minutes?
28

29 Herrera: So moved.
30

31 Shearer: Second.
32

33 Pearson: I have a motion and a second to accept the minutes. All in favor "aye."
34 Any opposed? So the minutes are approved.
35

36 MOTION IS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.
37

38 4. PUBLIC COMMENT

39
40 Pearson: Next we have public comment. This is one of two opportunities for the
41 public to comment. Anybody from the public wish to make a comment to
42 us? If you can go up to the, or, yeah, you can just go to this chair so we're
43 on, have a microphone. Give us your name and whatever you wish.
44

45 Pacheco: Hello. My name is Dereck Pacheco. I'm checking in from Phoenix,
46 Arizona. I'm a guest today, just invited by I think it was Andy at the City.

1 So the reason I'm here exploring Las Cruces today is because I'm pretty
2 fed up with the way that Phoenix is looking as far as bicycle transportation
3 initiatives. I'm really impressed with cities such as Long Beach. I don't
4 know what New Mexico's doing for bicycling right now but I'd like to get in
5 on the ground floor as a bicycle shop owner myself. I have a lot of
6 interesting forward-thinking ideas on how to deploy rapid transportation
7 initiatives. I'd like to speak with anyone that is interested in doing similar
8 projects in the valley here and I will be back.

9
10 Pearson: Okay. Thank you. Anyone else?

11 12 **5. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

13 14 **5.1 Metropolitan Transportation Plan Update**

15
16 Pearson: Okay. Hearing no more, we'll go on to our discussion items. So the 5.1,
17 MPO Plan Update.

18
19 Tom Murphy gave his presentation.

20
21 Pearson: You mentioned no expansion of the roadway system but there still might
22 be some individual things happening, Missouri extension, Baylor Canyon,
23 things like that. Those aren't really covered by the plan but will still
24 happen.

25
26 Murphy: That's correct. I'll, I'll, I'll speak to each of those. It, I think I, hope I said
27 nearly no, no expansion. Where we, where we proposed that there's new
28 lane mileage or, or in, or in this effect, you know lane footage of new
29 roadways it's to provide better connectivity to existing uses. I think
30 Missouri satisfies that and with the existence of Centennial High School,
31 that and we're, you know it's actually not a foregone conclusion that we're
32 going to recommend going forward with that. We have Bohannon Huston
33 on contract to do a, a study for that corridor. There are a couple others
34 north, northeast of US-70 and I-25. There's a short quarter-mile segment
35 of Engler and Arroyo crossing for Roadrunner Parkway that we would
36 propose those get constructed but again they're, you know under a
37 quarter of a mile in length and they provide connections to existing
38 communities. So those would be the instances where we do call for, for
39 new asphalt. In a case like Baylor Canyon Road, that's an existing right-
40 of-way that's good, you know and I, and I think as we learned a couple of
41 meetings ago that it's being, or actually we learned it at the Technical
42 Advisory Committee that it's being paved to local road, minor local
43 standard so it's not, it's not going to be a thoroughfare in the sense that,
44 you know that the MPO would be interested in, in tracking it.

45
46 Pearson: Anyone else have questions, comments?

1
2 Curry: I think my question, it'd probably be answered if I read it but does it
3 consider projects that are already underway or is it just a plan for future
4 projects? If, if projects are already sort of in progress, is it included in
5 here?
6
7 Murphy: It mostly includes projects, or future projects so things that are being
8 constructed right now not, not necessarily going, going to show up. I think
9 we have, we have projects listed on it that are expected to let next year in
10 2016. An example is the Valley project that NMDOT is working on. We,
11 we have it mentioned in the table on this and it shows on one of our maps.
12
13 Curry: Okay.
14
15 Murphy: But anything that's currently under construction like the Missouri bridge ...
16
17 Curry: So for example ...
18
19 Murphy: We're not, we're not showing.
20
21 Curry: Soledad Canyon. Is that a, is that a future or is that a current?
22
23 Murphy: It's a current project.
24
25 Curry: Okay. Okay. All right. Super. Thank you.
26
27 Pearson: So you mentioned Valley Drive. That would be the State portion. The City
28 portion also needs some work at some point. Is that going, is that part of
29 this or, I'm not even sure that that's on the City Capital Improvement Plan
30 yet.
31
32 Murphy: I, I don't recall if that's on there and that would, if it's not that would be an
33 excellent comment to, to make to, to add to this before we go through
34 ultimate adoption. For some reason it, it, I don't recall seeing it in any of
35 our tables so please, please let us know projects that we need to put on.
36
37 Pearson: Okay.
38
39 Herrera: Mr. Chair. Just one clarification on page 67, there's a list of projects on
40 here; US-70/North Main bridge widening, I just want to make sure that
41 that's the bridge that's sort of, what direction is that, west of Elks.
42
43 Murphy: That's correct.
44
45 Herrera: That, okay.
46

1 Murphy: That is the bridge west of Elks that crosses over the outfall channel but it's
2 identified as not, not having current funding.
3

4 Herrera: Right. I just want to make sure that that's the actual bridge that we're
5 talking about there. Thank you.
6

7 Pearson: Okay. Another one that I've, recently come to my attention that may fit on
8 this, on Main Street from Avenida de Mesilla to Boutz south-bound there's
9 no shoulder area and I've been told that that might be a right-of-way issue
10 with the, the railway there but that would be some, something to look at,
11 maybe we can get some safety funding or something. There's just no
12 room, there's no shoulder there so as a bicyclist you are in the roadway.
13

14 Murphy: We can certainly look into that and add that to, to this list. The, the, and
15 just to, for the record page 67 is the illustrated list. It's the list of projects
16 that are needed not, not have identified funding on it. We will vet it again
17 through this Committee and the Technical Advisory Committee and the
18 Policy Committee will approve it. The meaning of this list is federal
19 regulations allow us to establish a list of priorities that are not yet funded
20 that we can then, then pursue, pursue some funding with a note that
21 anything if, if we were to acquire some sort of funding it would require a
22 Transportation Plan Amendment over the next five years but it's important
23 to get it onto this list.
24

25 Pearson: What about University from Main to NM-28? That's one of the, that's the
26 corridor that the, the study had planned.
27

28 Murphy: Right. We have a, we have a study on that and I'm pretty sure ...
29

30 Pearson: Is that someplace else?
31

32 Herrera: It's on, the study is done on the very last page, all the way ...
33

34 Murphy: Right, bottom, yeah, thank, thank you, Jolene.
35

36 Herrera: *(inaudible)*
37

38 Pearson: So those are identified as projects that need to happen.
39

40 Murphy: Right and we hope to, hope to ...
41

42 Pearson: Okay. So that's ...
43

44 Murphy: Improve upon our cost estimates and ...
45

46 Pearson: Like is it a higher level of importance than this other list perhaps.

1
2 Murphy: That's correct. That'll, that'll be included once we, once we conclude the
3 study that we have Bohannon Huston contracted for.
4
5 Herrera: And, Mr. Chair if I could just jump in real quick on that particular project, I
6 think I would call it more than *(inaudible)* pedestrian projects because
7 we're looking at traffic flow kind of as well or *(inaudible)* ...
8
9 Pearson: It should be multimodal improvements probably too because that's, that
10 was identified long ago as a location for a bicycle facility.
11
12 Curry: Or a multiuse path.
13
14 Pearson: Or something, yeah, and ...
15
16 Herrera: For bicycles and pedestrians.
17
18 Pearson: Something to help bicyclists and pedestrians because of the Zia, Zia
19 Middle School's there. That's, I think we're all probably well aware of the
20 problems there.
21
22 Shearer: So these are projects that are likely to be addressed or expected to be
23 addressed in 2016 to 2020?
24
25 Murphy: On, on page 77, yes.
26
27 Shearer: Just they're not necessarily funded yet.
28
29 Murphy: Not necessarily.
30
31 Herrera: Some of these are.
32
33 Murphy: Some of them are, are funded. They are ...
34
35 Herrera: Three are.
36
37 Murphy: Included on the Transportation Improvement Program.
38
39 Herrera: I don't see the big University *(inaudible)*.
40
41 Murphy: That's third, third from the bottom. I probably need to work on the, the
42 listing for it but ...
43
44 Herrera: Oh, okay.
45

1 Murphy: If you, yeah if you look over under the description it kind of carries in the I-
2 25 ramps and ...
3
4 Pearson: The flow on the campus is the, the connection under University.
5
6 Murphy: And I think I was waiting on the, the cost estimate from you.
7
8 Herrera: It's 25 million.
9
10 Curry: Is that the one, is that plan to have the Triviz Trail go under so ...
11
12 Herrera: The whole road will go under. We're also going to be reconstructing
13 University which is ...
14
15 Curry: Oh, so the whole of Triviz will, will go under University.
16
17 Herrera: Yes.
18
19 Curry: Okay. Including a bicycle ...
20
21 Shearer: Looks like Triviz goes under Lomador or Lohman I guess it is at that point.
22
23 Farnham: This is, this is an issue right, this is, and that's the expected cost.
24
25 Herrera: Yes.
26
27 Farnham: Might be other remedies or no funding at all.
28
29 Herrera: No, there is funding. The, the district, District 1 has committed \$25 million
30 to construct that project.
31
32 Farnham: Oh, yeah.
33
34 Herrera: In 2019, 2018, yeah. Let me double-check that.
35
36 Pearson: So the signal lights at Amador and Melendres, would that be on this
37 someplace? Cause that's, that's been ...
38
39 Curry: Where the pedestrian was hit?
40
41 Murphy: That is being done with local funds. We could in, we could include it as a
42 regionally significant but I, you know since it is local funds then we're not
43 required to.
44
45 Wray: Think it's on the illustrated list.
46

1 Murphy: And ...
2
3 Herrera: I think that was the (*inaudible*) list.
4
5 Murphy: And it might be on the, and Andrew says it might be on the page 67 list.
6
7 Wray: Mr. Chair. Actually it's, I see a reference to Melendres as being a
8 potential bike boulevard so that must have been what tripped my memory
9 about Melendres so it's not, not elaborated on.
10
11 Pearson: Yeah, I just called, City's asking for State funding for that, or State
12 assistance I believe cause ...
13
14 Herrera: They what? A traffic signal?
15
16 Pearson: Yeah. I thought there was a, like a map project that they were going to
17 look at or, I don't recall now. Or maybe they're just looking at legislative
18 funds.
19
20 Herrera: Could be, I'm just not sure. I'm just ...
21
22 Pearson: Seems like it got ramped up to a higher level than it has been in the past
23 like the ...
24
25 Farnham: We could have the ...
26
27 Pearson: Like funding's in sight but not secure.
28
29 Murphy: Well the City's, the City's not notified us in total of what they're expecting
30 to do.
31
32 Pearson: But that also does bring up the issue of safety on Picacho at about
33 Melendres where we had the pedestrian incident. That probably is not
34 part of this plan though, but that's something that maybe we can talk about
35 at some other point.
36
37 Curry: Where the tennis courts are on Picacho?
38
39 Murphy: Yeah.
40
41 Shearer: From there and towards Main, Main Street it's really tight.
42
43 Pearson: Yeah, that's a 25 mile an hour zone but I guess that doesn't get respected.
44
45 Shearer: Nobody, everybody's going (*inaudible*).
46

1 Herrera: Mr. Chair.
2
3 Pearson: Yes.
4
5 Herrera: Tom can I ask, and I'm sure I haven't (*inaudible*) yet so I'm sure these
6 questions will be answered but where are the performance measures?
7
8 Murphy: We're going through performance measures beginning of chapter 4.
9
10 Herrera: Oh. Right in the table of contents. Got it.
11
12 Pearson: Also without having read it does that include traffic counts, especially
13 multimodal?
14
15 Murphy: I, I think we, within this we've laid out a, a goal for how we're going to
16 address the, address the performance measures. I think as, as we move
17 along and I envision an annual report on all, all sorts of measures but with
18 the, you know as we develop ...
19
20 Pearson: It's included in the summary here so ...
21
22 Murphy: Right, right. We need to pay particular mind to things that, that; 1) we can
23 measure and 2) give us useful information, so I think we're, after, after we
24 adopt this plan, I hate to sound like Congress, we'll, we'll find more out
25 about what we'll, we'll be vetting the performance measures a lot more. I
26 mean we're going to, we want to find measures that really mean
27 something to this region.
28
29 Herrera: Mr. Chair, Tom, one more question. Has any of this been sent to Claude
30 or have you coordinated any of your performance measures or population
31 forecasting, any of that kind of stuff with Claude at the State?
32
33 Murphy: We've, we've worked with, with Claude, El Paso MPO, South Central
34 Council of Governments on developing the population numbers, and we
35 also sent him this list of performance measures.
36
37 Herrera: Okay. Great. Thanks.
38
39 Pearson: I did see a reference to the State Long-Range Multimodal Plan and State
40 Safety plan, and those are still in process. They're coming together soon
41 so probably about the same time frame as this plan is coming together.
42
43 Murphy: We've been at many of each others' own meetings. That's one of Jolene's
44 major roles. The problem with having due dates very close and
45 concurrent, we must write our plan, they must write their plan and ...
46

1 Pearson: And hope that they're close enough.
2
3 Murphy: We know, we know that they're close enough but we can't quote ...
4
5 Pearson: Can't reference each other.
6
7 Murphy: We can't quote them.
8
9 Pearson: Okay.
10
11 Herrera: Yeah and just so you all know that, that coordination has been happening.
12 I just wanted I guess you to tell everyone here that that coordination has
13 been happening so ...
14
15 Pearson: Any further comments, discussion on this item?
16
17 Herrera: Mr. Chair, one other question. How would you like to receive comments,
18 Tom; e-mail or written or what would you prefer?
19
20 Murphy: We would, we would like e-mail comments.
21
22 Herrera: Okay.
23
24 Murphy: You can send them to any MPO staff directly, can use the mpo@las-
25 cruces.org general e-mail address, or you can, or next Committee meeting
26 you can you know hand us written comments as well.
27
28 Herrera: Okay. Thanks.
29
30 Shearer: Comments by what end date?
31
32 Murphy: We have not set, I haven't, haven't looked at the calendar to do the end
33 date. We have the Technical Advisory Committee meeting on the first
34 Thursday of April and the comment deadline will be 45 days from that date
35 so it'll be some point mid-May.
36
37 Pearson: So our next, next scheduled meeting, the April one may not happen if we
38 don't have a TIP but the May one would be within that range for us.
39
40 Murphy: Right. And if you like we could, we could have an April meeting here just
41 to go over, over this plan as well. I guess, I think, and probably we should.
42 It's that important.
43
44 Pearson: Okay.
45

1 Wray: Mr. Chair, I do want to jump in here and, mainly for Jolene's benefit since
2 she's here. On page 69 we are still waiting for some financial numbers
3 from Claude that we have not gotten yet so if you could use your influence
4 to, thank you.
5

6 Herrera: Will do.
7

8 Murphy: And then I guess as a, as a closing note if you want to look at the color
9 version Andrew will be, have this document on, up on the website along
10 with the maps in the next few days for the, you, you can download them,
11 look them, look at them on your screen.
12

13 Pearson: And once you have them available you can just send us, the Committee
14 an e-mail that points to that.
15

16 Murphy: It's too big to e-mail.
17

18 Pearson: No. I mean the, the pointer.
19

20 Murphy: Oh. Yes. Absolutely.
21

22 **5.2 Short Range Transit Plan Update**

23

24 Pearson: Okay. I guess we're ready to move on to the next, 5.2 Short Range
25 Transit Plan update.
26

27 Michael McAdams gave his presentation.
28

29 Pearson: Okay. Can I ask ...
30

31 McAdams: Yes.
32

33 Pearson: How this plan fits in with other plans that exist, or ...
34

35 McAdams: Yes. If you noticed that the long range plan referenced the short range
36 transit plan, we're required at intervals to, to update our plan and so the
37 short range plan is mainly for, for incremental changes, not big changes
38 you know so these will, the recommendations will have, and you can
39 recommend too of course, that's why you're here, we can do it very
40 gradually. So this is not a one-time deal.
41

42 Michael McAdams continued his presentation.
43

44 Pacheco: Would the turtle cost money or would this be free service?
45

1 McAdams: It would, I, I think that, the turtle I'm not sure. We have to check about
2 that. I think it would be establish ...
3
4 Pearson: Would you restate the question for the record?
5
6 McAdams: The question was "Would this be a free service for city residents or
7 anybody in, using the bike system?" Speaking a little bit off the cuff, I
8 think that it would be available as a service that the City provides.
9
10 Pacheco: You said that ...
11
12 McAdams: The bike locker is, is, is a, is a rental. Yeah. Oh, sorry. I'm bad.
13
14 Pacheco: Did, did you also mention that that has to be a USA manufacture?
15
16 McAdams: Oh, it doesn't have to be. It could be, actually the, the, the bike lids are
17 from anywhere I think but I, as you, as you know it's generally encouraged
18 federal contracts and ...
19
20 Pacheco: What I've noticed in, in the major cities is it's all going to China.
21
22 McAdams: Yeah.
23
24 Pacheco: And you mentioned that these are not innovative ideas. I don't want to
25 see non-innovative ideas. I want to see New Mexico have the most
26 innovative ideas. These are Chinese bikes. If we're going to do bike
27 share or bike libraries, you mentioned Boulder for the bike share.
28
29 McAdams: Right.
30
31 Pacheco: How about going a little further to Ft. Collins and looking at their bicycle
32 library, lending library? No cost to citizens.
33
34 McAdams: Oh yeah.
35
36 Pacheco: This is a lot of fluff that gets real expensive really fast.
37
38 McAdams: It, well this is just, again this is a, idea to spur discussion and these would
39 be great ideas. I agree. If we could do it for free, in fact it should be free
40 you know to a certain degree and many, there's many people just
41 abandon bikes. Why couldn't we use those too so I'm, I'm, we're not
42 saying these are the best or, this just, it's just a idea and to have other
43 type of discussion too.
44
45 Pacheco: Absolutely and ...
46

1 McAdams: And I think that you're right. We want to be the best. We can't help that I
2 think it's been shipped to China that's, I can't, I can't ...
3
4 Pacheco: We can, we can help that though if we bring back manufacturing ...
5
6 McAdams: Oh I agree.
7
8 Pacheco: To a local level we could be manufacturing these bicycles and putting New
9 Mexicans back to work ...
10
11 Pearson: Put a hold, let the presentation go on and then the questions
12
13 Pacheco: Absolutely.
14
15 McAdams: I agree with you entirely.
16
17 Pacheco: He did offer.
18
19 McAdams: This is just to introduce, I think that we're not ...
20
21 Pacheco: I didn't mean to shut you out.
22
23 McAdams: No, no, no. We, this is, these are good issues and again this is just for
24 discussion and this could go anywhere right.
25
26 Michael McAdams continued his presentation.
27
28 Pacheco: But also it ...
29
30 Pearson: I'll hold questions till afterwards.
31
32 McAdams: Okay.
33
34 Pacheco: He invited questions earlier. I was just ...
35
36 McAdams: Okay.
37
38 Pearson: I'm going to hold public comment until after we're done with our
39 discussion.
40
41 McAdams: Oh, okay. You want to see the, the map I guess.
42
43 Pearson: Yeah.
44
45 McAdams: Can we, can we, discussion or, I'll get it.
46

1 Pearson: Okay, so you're looking, Transit's looking at redoing the routes then, that's
2 part of this plan?
3

4 McAdams: *(inaudible)*
5

6 Murphy: Mr. Chair, yes it, the MPO and Roadrunner Transit are, we've
7 commissioned a study to, to look at the, or, yeah adjusting the Roadrunner
8 routes.
9

10 Pearson: Okay, so that's what part of this is, is part of, yeah.
11

12 Murphy: Yeah. Part of, part of that's to give you the briefing on, on the work that's
13 taking place on that and we're working closely with the Transit Advisory
14 Board on the actual routes themselves. Where we thought it would
15 intersect this committee was the, the idea of implementing the, the bike
16 and ride kind of to you know, you know extend both the transit and, and
17 cycling as very useful means of transportation. And ...
18

19 Pearson: *(inaudible)*
20

21 Murphy: That's, that's correct and, and just to reiterate the orange circles on the,
22 the map that's closest to you represent areas that we would, we would
23 propose you know the general areas where we'd propose these bike
24 stations. The idea of people coming from very remote areas come in,
25 have a safe place to store their, their bicycle and be able to take, take
26 transit the rest of the way into the center of the city or the university. And
27 the blue circles represent where we would have bike sharing programs
28 and so that was, they could you know leave their bike remotely, come in,
29 finish their, finish their trip on another one. The importance on it really,
30 really stems from, we are limited safety reasons on how many, how many
31 bike racks we can place on the bus so we figured if we give more options
32 to, to bicycle riders that we can one, you know in, increase the range that
33 they can travel and two, just provide more transportation options.
34

35 Pacheco: A quick question. Based on the bus transit issue, what is the current
36 regulation for taking bikes onto the bus if the bike racks are full?
37

38 Murphy: The, the current regulation is they are not allowed on the, on the bus
39 because there's no way to secure it within them and if, and should there
40 be a, a crash or other kind of incident you have a very heavy projectile
41 within the bus.
42

43 Pacheco: I've been stranded, last bus of the route and the bike racks are full and
44 then I have to bike all the way to the next town. Are we forward, are we
45 actively thinking of, of new measures to maybe increase ridership and
46 participation by alleviating some of these concerns?

1
2 Murphy: And that, that has happened to me as well and I think that's one of the
3 things is, you know you, you, you know you can have a bicycle on both
4 ends of your transit trip and ...
5
6 Pacheco: What if I'm a bicycle owner and I don't want to ride the bike?
7
8 Murphy: Then, then you lock your bicycle in a locker.
9
10 Pacheco: How am I going to get home?
11
12 Murphy: I don't want to do this back and forth but I know people can have two
13 bicycles, one on each end if that's what they want to do. They're in, I
14 mean, you know there's, there's many ways to go about it.
15
16 Pearson: One of the comments was the students, university level participation
17 seems to be lower. I remember that there was some initiative to allow
18 NMSU students free access to the buses and then Student Union would
19 perhaps subsidize that. Has that happened, will that happen?
20
21 Murphy: We're continuing, continuing those discussions. This academic year the,
22 the Associated Student Body for NMSU has chosen that they would, they
23 would buy, purchase passes and then, and then give them to their
24 membership upon request.
25
26 Pearson: Okay.
27
28 Pacheco: That's not an active program yet?
29
30 Murphy: Restate the question, Mr. Pacheco.
31
32 Pacheco: That's not an active program that's advertized yet? Students don't have
33 subsidized cards? It seems like a no-brainer, easy one to get ridership up.
34 Also I'd like to know the frequency of the late buses. Is this harming
35 student travel? They won't use the bus if they can't get to class on time.
36
37 Murphy: Mr. Chair, Mr. Pacheco?
38
39 Pacheco: Yes, sir.
40
41 Murphy: Yeah. You know these are all, all things that we hear about. One of the
42 primary concerns is to run the routes later in the day. That's you know
43 right now that's a, a funding constraint. The City is running as, as much
44 service as, as, as we can with the resources that we've, we've devoted
45 towards that.
46

1 Pacheco: I noticed that the highest ridership is to Wal-Mart stores. Any thoughts on
2 privately working with Wal-Mart on the, improving the transit line?
3

4 Murphy: We do try engage with some of the private sector as far as, as notably
5 getting employee passes. We've, I think we've had discussions with Wal-
6 Mart. We've had discussions with the call centers. I am not sure on an
7 operational basis how many, either any particular business has purchased
8 bus passes though.
9

10 Pacheco: And also if that discussion's on the table is a similar discussion available
11 on maybe bringing some ridership away from Wal-Mart, i.e. China goods
12 and maybe bringing it back into the old, the old neighborhoods.
13

14 Pearson: Well I think that kind of exceeds what we're talking about here. On the,
15 okay the student access, Roadrunner Transit provides the local Aggie
16 Transit or whatever. There's also some service from main campus to
17 Dona Ana Branch on the east side. Is that part of the integrated system,
18 available to everybody or is that just specific for university students?
19

20 Murphy: Oh everyone. That, that service is available to, to everyone. We do have
21 a meeting with the, with Dona Ana Branch on Friday to really advance
22 integrating that more into the system.
23

24 Pacheco: Okay.

25

26 Pearson: So it's just pay your fare, get on, and you're good.

27

28 Murphy: That's correct.

29

30 Pearson: Do we have any metrics for the use of bicycle, the bicycle racks on the
31 buses because anecdotally and we started out the meeting, "Oh, they're
32 always full," do you have any metrics that actually says you know certain
33 routes you get certain amount of percent of use and how often they're full,
34 things like that?
35

36 Murphy: We haven't looked into that, that specifically. Michael and I did discuss it
37 this morning. We are going to look into the fare box data to see if, if that is
38 captured but, but right now all I can really tell you is the anecdotal
39 evidence.
40

41 Pearson: Okay. Cause I think that would be real important for future planning,
42 identifying routes where it's used more often maybe or maybe we have to
43 look at putting racks on the back of the bus too instead of just the front. I
44 don't know what's technically available but ...
45

46 Murphy: Actually we ...

1
2 Pearson: I know we've expanded.
3
4 Murphy: Actually we ...
5
6 Pearson: Initially we had two bike, a two-bike rack on the front of each bus and
7 that's expanded to a three-bike rack and so if it's really that high usage
8 and anecdotally it seems true that they're, more often you see a bike, bus
9 with bikes than not it seems like but of course the metrics are really
10 needed.
11
12 Pacheco: And can we treat the interior of the bus like a train and maybe put some
13 racks inside that securely allow for that?
14
15 Pearson: Well that's where we need data.
16
17 Pacheco: And I'm, I'm pretty sure that the, that the fare box does not count the
18 bicycle, the bike ridership.
19
20 Murphy: Mike Bartholomew from Roadrunner Transit is here.
21
22 Bartholomew: There, there is a key on the fare box as to count bicycles. It has to be
23 manually done by a driver. We have done in past years, just done
24 samples just to justify the, the bike racks and but we haven't done it in
25 quite a few years because the first year that we tested it the, I can't
26 remember, there was, I wanted to say there was 50-80 bikes a day that
27 were being put on the buses and, and the, and the, we were going with
28 the anecdotal data that they were pretty, pretty heavily used all the time.
29 In fact there's occasions that we have to deny people with bicycles a, a
30 spot because all of our, our racks are, the, all the spaces in the racks are
31 full. But if the MPO wanted to do a sampling of the bike racks the key is
32 still on there that, that we could pick a sample period and sample the, the
33 bikes.
34
35 Pacheco: But, but also the denials need to be recorded. I don't think you have a key
36 for the denials.
37
38 Bartholomew: We don't have a specific one but it, there's plenty of keys. We can create
39 a key for that.
40
41 Shearer: I have a question. Are you saying that you have an agreement with
42 ASNMSU for free passes? If so it certainly hasn't been advertised or
43 provided.
44
45 Pearson: There you are.
46

1 Shearer: Okay. So if there's some sort of agreement for the use of the buses that
2 hasn't been communicated around campus?

3
4 Murphy: We, we had the, we had the program and it was known as the UPass. I
5 believe that was in fiscal year or academic year 2013-2014 and then since
6 then, and the, it was some, the students paid for it out of, out of their fees.
7 They, they directed a certain amount of their, out of their, out of their fees
8 to Roadrunner Transit. In exchange Roadrunner Transit provided people
9 with a valid ID, you know basically use that as their, as their bus pass and
10 recently I think it was the, you know it's been the decision and I'm not sure
11 if it rests at the, at the administration level or the student level for the, for
12 NMSU was they prefer to go the pre-purchase of, of passes and I, I think
13 from the, from the City's standpoint is they're always willing to, you know
14 to reexamine the UPass idea. I think that it, it was a real boon to
15 Roadrunner ridership and we would like to see it reinstituted but again
16 that's, a lot of it's the University's call.

17
18 Shearer: Okay. I'll make sure that this gets brought up before ASNMSU and so that
19 request to work back to the UPass. Thank you.

20
21 Murphy: We would appreciate that.

22
23 Pearson: And as far as bicycles at the transfer points, anecdotally the few times that
24 I've driven past the, the new transfer, the multimodal transfer point there's
25 some bike parking there and it seems to be at least half full if not full so
26 from what I can tell there seems to be a demand for maybe more bike
27 parking, maybe bike lockers, whatever so that is something certainly to
28 investigate.

29
30 Murphy: We think the demand's there and I think provided protected parking would
31 just you know even, even increase the usage of that.

32
33 Pearson: I know NMSU has some bike lockers. I don't know what, what the usage
34 is of them though and if they, anybody even knows, there are some up by
35 the Pan Am Center. I actually haven't been there in years cause...
36 they've been removed, yeah, cause it's been years and years ago that I
37 knew about them so they might be in storage someplace maybe.

38
39 Herrera: Mr. Chair if I can, I just want to point out too for your information that El
40 Paso is doing a bike share program. Right now the MPO is looking into
41 getting that started up. They've put some of their, the City of El Paso has
42 put some of their own money up for the startup but it might be good to talk
43 to El Paso MPO staff if you're really seriously looking at that because they
44 have looked into it a lot and come across some hurdles but they, they're
45 overcoming those and so they're our next-door neighbors.

1 Pacheco: You hear any budget numbers by chance?

2

3 Herrera: Yeah. They have them all. I just don't know them off the top of my head.

4

5 Pacheco: Cost Phoenix, City of Phoenix about a half a million bucks, and not the

6 City, it's being subsidized by out of state and out of country companies.

7

8 Herrera: Yeah. I think their initial, what they put in their Transportation

9 Improvement Program was \$800,000 just for the startup and that was I

10 believe three location, one at UTEP, one in downtown, and one

11 somewhere else that I don't remember right now ...

12

13 Pearson: So that was the reduced program from initial (*inaudible*)

14

15 Herrera: Right, that was the reduced. They initially had I think a million and a half

16 and then ...

17

18 Pearson: TexDOT.

19

20 Herrera: TexDOT. And some other things happened so ...

21

22 Pacheco: Has it been part of the discussion in El Paso or New Mexico of instead of

23 spending a million bucks on bikes, maybe the people are going to spend

24 money on renting, maybe bicycle ownership for every single resident?

25

26 Herrera: Those discussions have not come up at the MPO. I'm not sure if they've

27 happened.

28

29 Pacheco: I'd love to see New Mexico go that route instead of copying places like El

30 Paso and like I said this money goes out of the state and out of the

31 country to these providers. The GPS, the bicycles, the software, none of it

32 stays local. If we issue a credit for \$100 bicycle to anyone that wants it

33 and they can take that credit to a local bike shop, might run.

34

35 Herrera: Yeah. Well we do what we can with the resources that we have.

36

37 Pacheco: But we don't have the resources for bike share and we do have the

38 resources for simple bicycle integration on a really simple level.

39

40 Pearson: As far as bike share it is, Albuquerque has a system that they are, have

41 announced that will be operational sometime in May. It's a reduced

42 system, small system but it will exist so New Mexico will have an example

43 of bike share.

44

45 Shearer: Do we have budget numbers on that?

46

1 Pearson: No. I just saw the press release for it. I'm not familiar with the operational
2 of, anything more than the press release that a small system will be
3 operational in May sometime. I, I like your "Uber for Hippies" logo there.
4 They got the, the image correctly for hippies which are what 60-70 year-
5 old hippies now.
6
7 Curry: *(inaudible)*
8
9 Pearson: No, no, no.
10
11 Herrera: Mr. Chair.
12
13 Pearson: Yes.
14
15 Herrera: Can I ask just another question? I know that we're talking about the
16 Roadrunner fixed routes right now but does this plan look at all at
17 paratransit or anything like that?
18
19 Murphy: Mr. Chair, Ms. Herrera, no this, this plan is not looking at the, at the
20 paratransit. We had a, we had a limited budget. We decided to
21 concentrate it on the fixed route, route timing issues. We, the, yes, yeah
22 we decided that that would be where we would, we would focus the
23 resources. I mean the paratransit and the Dial-a-Ride system will
24 continue to operate as is. The adjustment of routes into new areas does
25 not affect the operation of Dial-a-Ride since we've declared the service
26 area is the city limits, we don't need to really worry about shifting the
27 three-quarter mile buffer around much.
28
29 Herrera: Okay. Great. Thank you.
30
31 Pearson: And then any integration with regional transit, VTrans or whatever, that's
32 just at the, the transfer points probably.
33
34 Murphy: Right, yes. The Roadrunner would continue to interact with other transit
35 providers at, at those, at those points.
36
37 Pearson: Okay. Guests, any further comments?
38
39 Pacheco: Quick question for transit. Any thoughts on wifi enabled buses? Your,
40 your bar chart was real low on the young people factor and young people
41 want the wifi and maybe also some part, have you guys experimented with
42 wrapping the buses and engaging more on a, a young person level
43 instead of the boring old Roadrunner? Could be a source for income also.
44

1 Bartholomew: We have enquired or looked a little bit into wifi at least at our intermodal
2 center but on the buses themselves we haven't yet because it, it, it's a
3 funding issue really for us to be able to put that in at this point in time.

4
5 Pacheco: And if you did the ... if you rolled out a ...

6
7 Bartholomew: And as far as the wraps on the buses the, the program that we have right
8 now is we have a vendor that gets paying businesses to advertise on the
9 bus and so we don't really put our own advertisements on the bus. I mean
10 if the university wanted, they've, if, and they have on some of the campus
11 buses. They, they've put on their own logo, information and logo on the,
12 on the routes that we run on the campus area. But we, as a city don't put
13 our own wraps on the bus.

14
15 Pacheco: Even just the feeder ones that you're talking about with the low student
16 ridership, students aren't coming from all over the valley necessarily,
17 maybe just off of one or two routes, maybe deploying a test plan with
18 Sprint or someone. I know ASU did that and it's widely successful, wildly
19 because they can do their homework while they're on the bus as students.
20 Also with the, the wraps if you just want to do a test run on the one route
21 that goes through school picking up all the kids, it could be a real low-cost
22 way to get some numbers up.

23
24 Bartholomew: And it certainly is something as a partnership with the university that the
25 university might be interested in helping to, to fund that wrap and, and
26 make it, make it happen.

27
28 Pacheco: I, I would think the Art Department would be.

29
30 Pearson: The Transit's had some interaction with the, the Google Maps for timing
31 and arrivals at locations. Is there, can you expand on that a little bit and
32 maybe at the, the bus stops if there's going to be information of when the
33 next bus will arrive or if you just do it with a smart phone or whatever.

34
35 Bartholomew: It, well that's actually a pretty relevant question right now. We, we did
36 have Google Transit up for a while and then it was down because there
37 were some issues with it but it's up again. Yeah, it's up again now and I
38 would say within a couple, two to three weeks that we're, we've been
39 installing a, a, a, what's called a CAD/AVL system, Computer Aided
40 Dispatch/Automatic Vehicle Location system in our buses and we've been
41 working, it's in, it's in the process of implementation right now and we
42 should have a public website or a link from our transit website to the
43 Where's My Bus? website where people can find, see where their bus is,
44 see when the next arrival is stop by stop, when the bus is anticipated to
45 arrive at that stop. Again, that should be, probably within three weeks we
46 should have that link to our, on our website.

1
2 Pacheco: So you're saying the largest tech company in the whole world is working
3 with you guys?
4
5 Bartholomew: What was that?
6
7 Pacheco: The largest tech company in the entire world is working with Las Cruces
8 on their bus system? Is that what you're saying?
9
10 Bartholomew: The largest tech company in the world?
11
12 Pacheco: Google. They're working with Las Cruces, New Mexico on their transit ...
13
14 Bartholomew: Oh, no, no, no. That's, that's not the Google system. It's a company
15 called Clever Devices that, the CAD ...
16
17 Pacheco: You mentioned Google.
18
19 Bartholomew: Google is, we have a presence on Google Transit and that's just a matter
20 of providing data to Google to, that's uploaded and, and then the
21 information is, is on there. That's free other than the time to put the, the
22 data together and, but the CAD/AVL system is actually something that has
23 a public interface but more importantly for us it's, it, it's an operating
24 interface where we can get statistical data on what our buses are doing,
25 we have better interaction with our buses, we can see where they, the
26 buses are at all times and, and we have that on both of our, on our fixed
27 route side and then just internally on our Dial-a-Ride side we have that
28 CAD/AVL system.
29
30 Pacheco: So Las Cruces is giving the biggest data company in the world free data
31 and we're not asking for some free internet on the buses yet?
32
33 Bartholomew: I still, I'm sorry, I couldn't hear your ...
34
35 Pacheco: We are working with Google and Google products ...
36
37 Pearson: I think this kind of exceeds what we're talking about right now so if we
38 could go on ...
39
40 Pacheco: But ...
41
42 Pearson: Is there any ...
43
44 Pacheco: This is, this is very relevant actually.
45
46 Pearson: I'm going to disallow this at this point.

1
2 Pacheco: Yes, sir.

3
4 **5.3 Bicycle Suitability Map**
5

6 Pearson: Let's move on to our next item which is the Bicycle Suitability Map.

7
8 Tom Murphy gave his presentation.
9

10 Curry: Mr. Chair, Mr. Murphy? Could you, would you be able just to give us a
11 quick key of red, green, orange, stripy, (*inaudible*) path?
12

13 Pearson: And any changes of significance since the last time?
14

15 Curry: Thank you.
16

17 Murphy: Okay. The, the, the, when I show, I believe when it shows up on the
18 screen is the, the dark green, I'm not sure if, it's more of an olive color
19 here. That's, that's the, the highest suitable, the lighter green is ...
20

21 Curry: Highest.
22

23 Murphy: The highest, highest suitability, yeah excuse me. It's been a long day.
24 The, the lighter green is, is somewhat suitable. The orange-ish is less
25 suitable and the red is the least suitable, those being the, the high-speed
26 large-volume roadways with no bicycle facilities. I think we have, I, I, I
27 can't, can't pinpoint it but where we've, we had some changes on there,
28 we've had some bike lanes implemented since then. I believe the road,
29 road diet on Idaho is probably represented there.
30

31 Curry: So what year was this set? Is this the 2014?
32

33 Murphy: This is 2015.
34

35 Curry: Oh this is 2015.
36

37 Shearer: And the dotted white, a multiuse path?
38

39 Murphy: We, we also, originally this map was envisioned as dealing with in-road
40 facilities but I believe it was, it was through working with this Committee
41 we added the multi-use path since you know a recreational rider finding a
42 map at a bike shop would want to know the locations of, of those facilities
43 as well and there, I guess is our most obvious addition would be the outfall
44 channel path.
45

46 Pearson: What's this one at the top?

1
2 Curry: That's Sonoma Ranch.
3
4 Pearson: Oh, I guess technically it's ...
5
6 Murphy: Technically, yes.
7
8 Farnham: There's a, another path that goes from ...
9
10 Curry: DACC (*inaudible*)
11
12 Farnham: Yeah. Down through the arroyo and ...
13
14 Curry: Back behind the middle school.
15
16 Farnham: Right. And it's actually pretty ride-able to go, continue on down the arroyo
17 and get to the outfall channel. It's not a, any formed trail but the, kind of a
18 cross-country there.
19
20 Murphy: Right. We actually, we actually have counters on that, the, the paved
21 portion but I don't think we ought to advertise riding on an unpaved one
22 with, with, with, from our capacity.
23
24 Farnham: We should put it the ...
25
26 Curry: There's a problem with this the, the flood, whatever the floodwall ... what's
27 that called?
28
29 Farnham: The dam?
30
31 Curry: The dam. The dam wall is in the way. Never had a discussion like that
32 before. Maybe that was there's a, a dam wall that prohibits continuing that
33 on. I, I have a quick question. On El Paseo our focus was really to turn El
34 Paseo into a very ride-able road yet it remains red. Is there plans to make
35 it a green road?
36
37 Murphy: This, the, there are plans to make that a, a green road but right now this
38 is, represents ...
39
40 Curry: Okay.
41
42 Murphy: Current traffic, current conditions, current counts, current speed limit.
43
44 Shearer: I'll say for right now that you haven't looked at the university's roads. I'm
45 certain that we have bus lanes the entire length of Stewart and you're
46 showing it as orange which you say is the least suitable.

1
2 Curry: No, red's the least suitable.
3
4 Shearer: Well okay, red then. So I would think you would need to be light green if
5 not dark green. Also your road, your map doesn't show Arrowhead which
6 is one of the newer roads which goes down past the early college high
7 school. It has bike lanes on both sides and it's, it's very suitable for riding
8 and I'm having it striped from, and it extends to Wells and I'm currently
9 having it striped from, from Wells over to Stewart so there's a connection
10 there. There may be some other ones that would be possibly not dark
11 green but they ought to be depicted on the university's portion here.
12
13 Murphy: We'll, we'll send our, our co-ops back out there.
14
15 Shearer: Okay. Thank you.
16
17 Pearson: So the map shows suitability but doesn't really show places to go, for
18 example Lomador, Lohman-Amador is clearly red and it should be red, but
19 Kansas is a very suitable alternate route to get ...
20
21 Curry: Where's Kansas?
22
23 Pearson: Along there. It's the first road south.
24
25 Murphy: The first road south.
26
27 Pearson: So I, and I think that's on our suitability plan so maybe we should identify
28 alternative connections where possible as green or at least orange. But
29 green, I mean those are residential so those are green I would presume.
30
31 Murphy: I think we defaulted towards ones that are on the functional classification,
32 either that is a collector or above which you know we certainly can look at
33 local roadways when they, when they provide a very suitable alternative
34 and, and we'll add that if you ...
35
36 Pearson: Well this isn't a route finding map. It's a suitability map which are two
37 different functions so that's why I wonder if we can kind of work in the, the
38 route finding as part of this.
39
40 Murphy: Well, it's ...
41
42 Pearson: Cause this is the only map that's going to be available in Las Cruces.
43
44 Murphy: Okay. So I think, I think you're, you're here and you want, you want some,
45 some destinations identified on it and then, and then local roads where
46 they provide a very good alternative to a, to a red travel.

1
2 Pearson: Right, yeah like Kansas.
3
4 Murphy: Okay. All right.
5
6 Pearson: That's the only one I can think of offhand.
7
8 Murphy: Yeah, yeah I can you know ...
9
10 Curry: Well I, I could think of coming up Conway as a nice riding road as an
11 alternative to the university or to Union. (*inaudible*) doesn't go all the way
12 through but it would mediate some (*inaudible*).
13
14 Murphy: Yeah. I think you know and, and I missed, I, I wasn't at the particular
15 meet, some of the particular meetings when the BPAC last discussed you
16 know what the, the metrics to adopt this. I think you know, I think by, by
17 default all local roadways are suitable for, for bicycling and they're very,
18 you know they're very comfortable for pretty much all levels of cyclists and
19 we provide the local map route as a background to there so somebody,
20 you know somebody can see the local roadways and see that the
21 connections exist but we don't do, we don't do traffic counts on them, they
22 don't have facilities placed on them so as far as rank, you know I, I would
23 say you know, you know maybe, maybe we'd put in the legend that the,
24 the grey line is the, the grey lines are the utmost highest suitable you
25 know for all, for all levels but I don't have a problem with identifying
26 particular, particular alternatives when, when it's next to a heavy corridor.
27
28 Pearson: We have, we have the, the bicyclists' or the Tier 1, Tier 2, Tier 3 map. I
29 wonder if we should, at least as an exercise at some point overlay the two
30 and see if some of those routes are missing from this map. Maybe that's
31 where we put in connection, make, make sure that they're ...
32
33 Murphy: The local roadways show? Okay.
34
35 Pearson: Officially overlapped.
36
37 Murphy: Okay. That sounds like a good suggestion.
38
39 Pearson: (*inaudible*) Cause I think Kansas should be on a Tier, like a Tier 1 route as
40 an alternative.
41
42 Murphy: Right. Yeah, yeah similar to like Albuquerque and Silver as the bike
43 boulevard parallel to Central Avenue.
44

1 Curry: Yeah, and for example you could take, I'm looking at Hadley (*inaudible*) a
2 light green/olive/orange or we could just work on making those orange
3 ones like green or olive.
4
5 Murphy: Right.
6
7 Curry: (*inaudible*) connectivity.
8
9 Murphy: And that's, yeah and that's where we're identifying doing the first bicycle
10 boulevards along Hadley so we would like to, you know those are the,
11 probably the, the best, the best places to do initial treatments.
12
13 Pearson: Yeah, Hadley got darker colored since the last road improvement project
14 there cause bike lanes were added.
15
16 Herrera: Mr. Chair, Tom, if I can just ask what do you consider suitable in a more
17 rural area? What is the width of shoulder?
18
19 Murphy: I, I think we need to, we, we go to, AASHTO say that it needs to be a
20 minimum of four feet before we can consider it.
21
22 Herrera: Okay, and that doesn't include if there's guard rail or I don't think we have
23 any rumble strips on any roads in the MPO and yeah so guard rail
24 because that takes away from a little bit of the ride-able shoulder area.
25
26 Murphy: Okay. We, we can check, see if there's any, anything where the guardrail
27 reduces that but ...
28
29 Herrera: It, it's probably minimal. I guess it would just be nice to say some around
30 here that's suitable for the rural areas needs at least four foot of shoulder
31 just so that it's clear for people from out of town that are looking at this.
32
33 Wray: Mr. Chair, Ms. Herrera if I could interject, I, I don't know if all of you recall
34 the current suitability map but on the back side there is a, sort of in a
35 brochure style a wide range of various pieces of information. It sounds
36 like it, it might be a good idea if the meeting we bring that map in, or that
37 portion of the map in for discussion by this Committee so that we can
38 make sure that the information presented will be useful to the cycling
39 community at large but I, as Mr. Murphy said I think that we can put text in
40 alluding to the local roads and we can also put text in the informational
41 portion of the map regarding the rural road definition.
42
43 Herrera: Thank you. That would be helpful just because you know there's different
44 levels of, of cyclists and their comfort levels so maybe suitable for
45 someone who rides a lot is not suitable for somebody who's just starting
46 out and so that could be helpful.

1
2 Pearson: Any further comments?

3
4 Herrera: I like it.

5
6 Wray: Good.

7
8 **6. COMMITTEE AND STAFF COMMENTS**

9
10 **6.1 Local Projects update**

11
12 Pearson: Okay. We'll move on to Committee and Staff Comments.

13
14 Murphy: I guess I'll go first. Staff, we have, MPO has a new Planning Technician
15 on board. In the, in the back you see Sharon Nebbia. We hired her
16 formerly of the, the, she was working with the Boston MPO for a little bit
17 and graduated from University of Delaware and we're, we're happy to
18 have her. She's really bright and she's corrected us on many mistakes
19 already.

20
21 Wray: She's contributed significantly to the MTP already.

22
23 Pearson: We've got an upcoming change in our Committee membership?

24
25 Farnham: Yes. I did submit a letter to resign effective after this meeting here. I did
26 provide a recommendation of Mr. James Nunez, sorry. Of course from
27 what I understand the final decision is (*inaudible*) I believe with public
28 works director.

29
30 Murphy: Staff, staff appointments are, are the purview of the, of the Department so
31 Ms. Reyes would have the final, final say-so.

32
33 Farnham: James is, he actually works with Jerry Cordova who used to be on the
34 Board as City rep and so I feel he's well qualified and very in tune with
35 City projects (*inaudible*).

36
37 Pearson: So do we ask MPO staff to request a letter from Ms. Reyes or ...

38
39 Wray: Mr. Chair, yes I'll be getting in touch with Ms. Reyes tomorrow as a matter
40 of fact to speed along the formal appointment.

41
42 Pearson: Local updates?

43
44 Shearer: Turn it off. Just some of the things going on the campus, NMSU campus.
45 We're currently starting a campus-wide survey from students and staff and
46 employees on the bike program there. It's going to more or less be open

1 to all individuals there for their comments on the program and also trying
2 to collect information on, on their concerns for the campus, any hazards,
3 that sort of thing, trying to get information if they've had an injury, an
4 accident. It's directed mostly towards bicyclists but it's open to
5 pedestrians and just general comments coming in if they have any
6 information there and for bicyclists just trying to get some general
7 information on their habits and that sort of thing, do they always wear a
8 helmet and do they ride on the right side and so some of these other ones
9 just, just for that. And the other thing that we've got coming up is on April
10 25th just after Earth Day on Sunday we're going to do another family
11 bicycle safety event for the youth and parents on our housing areas more
12 or less, and inviting in, we have the City Codes coming in doing training
13 and (*inaudible*) Club for repairs and a bike ride for youth as well as for the
14 adults on the campus, (*inaudible*) Club and just going through our fix-it
15 station and that's in the south campus area. That's about it.
16
17 Pearson: Anything from the City today?
18
19 Murphy: I don't have anything.
20
21 Pearson: Please.
22
23 Nunez: If I could, yeah. Thanks. I'm a new hire also at the City. Actually just
24 worked with Dave, came from the university so I know Dave and I've been
25 taking note of all your names so yeah, we'll see what Loretta says. Maybe
26 she has a different candidate, that's fine too but I'm here just to see what
27 the meeting's about so, also I did talk to Jerry briefly and he, he mentioned
28 a couple projects that I might mention for you all. On Locust they're going
29 to do a, from Missouri to Rentfrow Avenue they're going to do an overlay
30 and then we're going to add bike lanes on that section and then also El
31 Paseo, Boutz to Farney overlay also and I think he said share lanes there
32 but maybe bike lanes, I can check for the next meeting but the
33 construction's a ways out. It'll be going on next, next summer.
34
35 Pearson: That includes the intersection, that includes the intersection at Missouri
36 and Locust?
37
38 Nunez: Yeah it appears, up to it.
39
40 Pearson: On the north side?
41
42 Nunez: South, so that goes to the south, to Rentfrow.
43
44 Pearson: Oh, Rentfrow's on the south?
45
46 Nunez: Yes. By that school.

1
2 Pearson: Is there already bike lanes?
3
4 Nunez: Could be. I'm not sure. I don't remember actually seeing painted bike
5 lanes but maybe somebody else can answer that.
6
7 Pearson: Yeah that, what I was thinking about was at Locust and Missouri on the
8 north side of the intersection there's a right turn only lane and there's a,
9 like a, a triangle shape marked off area and there would be room to
10 actually put the bike lane on that side to connect with the bike lane on the
11 other side of the intersection and we could also then talk to Traffic
12 Engineering about making sure that bicyclists could be detected at that
13 intersection.
14
15 Nunez: Okay.
16
17 Pearson: So if we're talking about the north side that'd be worth looking at. Cause
18 otherwise it's a case where things just get put back the way they were and
19 if we could make an improvement there I think that would affect safety.
20
21 Casillas: Dona Ana County. I don't have any updates unless you guys have any
22 questions for us.
23
24 Shearer: I do have further question, a comment from one of the Bicycle Task Force
25 members there and it was a concern on the new I-25, the Missouri
26 overpass. The artist's rendition didn't show bike lanes under the
27 underpass and they were wanting to know why that was or if they were
28 going to be put in.
29
30 Herrera: I can check on that. That portion, the City did put in some money and they
31 did participate in the design of Missouri under the overpass. I'm not sure,
32 I haven't seen plans, but I'll definitely look at that and get back to this
33 Committee. I'll probably send a response through Andrew if you can
34 distribute.
35
36 Pearson: I think you're probably seeing the article about the artist's rendition of the,
37 the graphics that will be added and clearly they, that was not an
38 engineering drawing.
39
40 Herrera: Yeah, and so they may very well be there but I don't want to misspeak
41 right now so ...
42
43 Pearson: Cause I, I recall some discussion there and there was, there was a lot of
44 tightness in that area so they may have left out, they may intend on doing
45 just a shared lane there for underneath the bridge. If we get lanes, bike
46 lanes of course that would be wonderful.

1
2 Herrera: Yeah. I'll, I'll definitely double check on that tomorrow and get a response
3 back to you.
4
5 Pearson: Cause that's a very big intersection with facilities there.
6
7 Herrera: Right.
8
9 Pearson: With Missouri, the Triviz ...
10
11 Herrera: And then the multiuse path.
12
13 Pearson: The multiuse path, Don Roser.
14
15 Herrera: Okay.
16
17 Pearson: Do you have a question? Go ahead.
18
19 Curry: Thank you. I just wanted to give a quick update on behalf of Safe Routes
20 to School. We have a whole lot of events coming up similar to the ones
21 that Mr. Shearer mentioned for the NMSU. April the 4th we're going to
22 have a bike education and family fun day at Conlee Elementary from 9-11
23 a.m. and that'll be bike repair, bike education, free helmets, kind of just a
24 fun bike, bike day. We'll have another one similar to that at Central
25 Elementary from 9-11 a.m. on the 11th of April. The 2nd of May we'll have
26 another one at Booker T. Washington Elementary and then just add the
27 week of May 4th through 8th we have National Bike to School day and
28 we'll be celebrating, so far we have 16 out of 25 schools signed up for
29 that. So we have a lot of biking activity with the elementary schools.
30 Thank you.
31
32 Shearer: Could I ask, what was the second school?
33
34 Curry: The second school was Central Elementary. It's the 11th of April.
35
36 Pearson: And as far as bicycling activities we're, we're seeing meetings of the
37 Southern New Mexico Bicyclists educators with the Branigan Library, I
38 think it's, it's a Saturday May 23rd, if I have that right, we'll probably have
39 an event from like 10:00 to 5:00, might include a ride, some education
40 things. It's not set yet but it actually will be. That'll be set in the next week
41 or so at the meeting Thursday.
42
43 **6.2 NMDOT Projects update**
44
45 Pearson: So NMDOT.
46

1 Herrera: Okay, so I'm sure you've all seen the orange barrels at Missouri on I-25. I
2 know it's kind of a mess over there. Just please slow down, be careful.
3 We've had some accidents, just people not paying attention to the work
4 zone so please just make sure that you slow down and, and pay attention
5 while you're going through there. That's going to be a long project. We're
6 going to be working on it for 320 weather working days. That means you
7 know if, if anything happens between now and then the contractor can
8 take the day off if the weather's bad enough but so far they're pushing
9 through. Everything's on schedule right now. They've completed the
10 crossovers for the detour and so they'll be tearing down one side of the
11 bridge at a time. So I don't have a date on when that will actually happen
12 but that will be at night to minimize the impact to traffic that goes under
13 Missouri. So as soon as we get a date for that I'll make sure to let this
14 Committee know and we also do have monthly meetings just to go over
15 construction updates so I believe the MPO receives those and somehow
16 distributes those releases.
17

18 Wray: Mr. Chair, Ms. Herrera, that was our practice historically. Unfortunately
19 we are no longer able to do that. I, it is with profound regret and this was
20 not by our choice but we are compelled to by City of Las Cruces IT. We
21 have no, no choice in the matter.
22

23 Herrera: Well if you do not receive press releases from Bridget Spedalieri our
24 District 1 PIO please let me know and I will add your name to the list if
25 you're interested. We send out all construction updates through press
26 release as well for anything major that's happening within a work zone.
27 The other project is North Main. That one was a little bit behind
28 schedule. I believe it still is but they're looking at finishing up hopefully
29 here sometime midsummer so they're still doing some work to utilities at
30 the intersection of Madrid and that's about all I know on that project. If you
31 have any specific questions I can get those answered from our
32 construction crews. And I think that's really all that we've got going on
33 currently in the area now. There's some projects coming up. The Union
34 bridges, I'm sure you're aware of that. I don't know what the plan is for
35 that because Missouri is going on at the same time and so we have talked
36 a lot internally about how to coordinate that to make sure that we can keep
37 traffic flowing around the university so I'll have to get more details on, on
38 that but I'm sure that there's going to be meetings about it and everything
39 so I'll make sure to keep this Committee updated on that and again look
40 for press releases for public meetings and things. And are there any
41 questions about future projects or anything else?
42

43 Curry: I have a quick question. Are there going to be bike lanes on the North
44 Main project once it's resurfaced?
45

46 Herrera: Yes. Yes.

1
2 Curry: Great.
3
4 Pearson: That was included in the consultant's report way back when so if they're
5 not there we're going to have an uprising.
6
7 Curry: And I am too.
8
9 Pearson: I guess, I did attend the National Bike Summit, a couple ideas one, just to
10 throw out there they were showing some maps in neighborhoods and
11 showing mapping according to stress levels so they would show green
12 areas on one side, green areas on the other side, probably residential
13 areas and then high, red areas in between and if there was a, a stress
14 area between the two areas that was something to concentrate on and try
15 to figure out how to reduce the stress which would increase the network.
16 Another thing that's being talked about is Vision Zero and I've heard New
17 York City's talking about Vision Zero where the idea is actually to reduce
18 traffic fatalities to zero. It's a lofty goal but there are some planning efforts
19 in order to try to take a whack at that. Right now we accept is, that's just
20 the way it is, 33 some thousand people in America every year are killed.
21 That's, if we have one Ebola patient in the country we go in a panic but
22 33,000 traffic fatalities are okay. There is a, a bill proposed in Congress to
23 provide some funding, you know shift some funding so it's not funding
24 neutral. The communities would be able to do a Vision Zero plan and so
25 that might be something. San Francisco's looking at that. There are
26 some others in the area. You have a comment?
27
28 Murphy: Yeah, Mr. Chair. Just to, to latch onto that. I think that's, that's a, an
29 attitude or a vision that we can follow through with our performance
30 measures. You know safety's one of, going to be one of the key ones and
31 I think reduction of crashes and particularly Vision Zero towards fatalities I
32 think is something that you know, you know hopefully our Committee
33 structure would, would endorse pushing forward.
34
35 Pearson: And then at the state level, yeah on April 18th the New Mexico Bicyclists
36 Educators are having a summit up in Albuquerque. April 19th is a
37 celebration of Bike Route 66, Adventure Cycling has maps throughout the
38 country, they've just released Bike Route 66 from Chicago to California.
39 We're going to celebrate the New Mexico segment with a 30-mile ride.
40 The ride is free and then there'll be a, a lunch available for \$10 cost
41 afterwards. Jim Sauter, president of Adventure Cycling will be there and
42 so we should have interesting things going on there. And that's all I have.
43
44 Herrera: Mr. Chair.
45
46 Pearson: Yes.

1
2 Herrera: Sorry.

3
4 Pearson: Oh, I, I've, my, there's also the safety summit up in Albuquerque. Go, you
5 probably know more about that. I know, I don't remember the date.
6

7 Herrera: Yeah. The safety summit is the 24th. That's next Tuesday I believe and
8 it's to finalize the, the NMDOT's state highway safety plan and part of that
9 plan is specifically directed at bicycles and pedestrians. We didn't,
10 actually we had a really good turnout at the last working group meeting for
11 the bike/ped element and so I, I'm really excited to see what comes out of
12 the plan but, but we had a really good representation and so if you're
13 interested it's the 24th in Albuquerque. I believe it starts at eight. I can
14 send you more information on it. And then also I just wanted to mention
15 that Rosa Kozev, she is working on a state suitability map right now too.
16 We're running into some issues with our shape files but hopefully we
17 should have something out soon so it, it sort of mimics I guess what you're
18 doing here but on a statewide level.
19

20 Pearson: Okay. Any other comments? Okay.
21

22 7. PUBLIC COMMENT

23
24 Pearson: We're ready for our second opportunity for public comment. Okay. We're
25 going to cut off the meeting at 7:00.
26

27 Pacheco: All right. I did a little research while you guys were ...
28

29 Pearson: You start with your name again, please.
30

31 Pacheco: Derrick Pacheco. I brought up an article just now. Headline is "Citybike is
32 Failing and Jeopardizing Public Safety, New York City Audit Alleges." You
33 might want to look that one up. These, these initiatives, the Ubers, the
34 bike shares, the fluff like I called it earlier really concerns me. I love New
35 Mexico. I love bicycling. I bicycle every single day. I love bicycling so
36 much I opened up a bike store in a neighborhood that's pretty rough. We
37 have all sorts of initiatives with, excuse me with kids, college kids,
38 students of all kinds, professors, everyone is really into bikes. Ft. Collins
39 Bike Library, brought them up. On the bottom of their webpage it says
40 there have been 23,575 free bicycles checked out, free. Let me pull up
41 another bit of information. Boulder, Colorado, \$107,000 is the median
42 family income for Boulder, Colorado in 2012. The median income for Las
43 Cruces, New Mexico \$36,000. Why we're comparing cities I'm not sure.
44 Bike share in Phoenix costs a resident \$80 a year. I had some ideas on
45 how to put Las Cruces on the map and I'm sure you guys do too cause
46 you love New Mexico and Las Cruces just as much as I do. Let's really,

1 really dig deep and try to beat this cause this is crap. This is a losing
2 venture. Do your research. I'm doing my research. Let's figure this out.
3 I'll help you guys. I will come to every meeting. I'm going to be a property
4 owner here by the next month so I have a vested interest. That's all.
5

6 Curry: Mr. Chair, may I comment, Mr. Chair.
7

8 Pearson: Sure.
9

10 Curry: I just wanted to clarify. You said you were from Phoenix? So can you,
11 can you explain a little bit your relationship with Las Cruces? You love
12 New Mexico but what's your relationship with Las Cruces other than you
13 know getting smaller cities involved in ...
14

15 Pacheco: Absolutely. I, I love getting small cities on board because there's a real
16 opportunity here. I love this small city in particular because my family's
17 from here. My grandfather farmed onions in Deming. My grandmother
18 lives on Mesquite Street, the oldest street in the town site. I'm buying her
19 property, buying some more property around here. I'm interested. I really
20 care. To see what happens in Phoenix and other cities where people that
21 don't care come in, make some decisions, spend a bunch of money, and
22 then leave from the City Manager double-dipping in pensions all the way
23 to the local leaders not giving the kids opportunities, kids like me, kids that
24 are under my direction. There's no opportunity that trickles down you
25 know it's so weird. Bicycling's for everyone.
26

27 Farnham: Question. What's your bike shop?
28

29 Pacheco: Called Hood Ride Bicycles.
30

31 Farnham: When did you open?
32

33 Pacheco: About seven years ago in the recession.
34

35 Shearer: If you have some ideas, if you could jot them down and right now I think
36 we're looking at five different bike share programs trying to find one that
37 would be economically feasible for the university that they would be willing
38 to support so David Boje with the business college has been working on
39 this and so we'd be very interested if you wanted to forward that ...
40

41 Pacheco: Absolutely. I'll, I'll ...
42

43 Shearer: To, to, to me or to ...
44

45 Pacheco: I'll forward you the Popular Mechanics articles, the Discovery Channel
46 stuff, the Sunset Magazine stuff.

1
2 Shearer: Yeah. You're just trying to find out you know how we could afford
3 something like that. Thank you.
4

5 Pearson: One other area that I probably should have brought up during the transit
6 discussion but community bikes shops and also a bicycle library are ideas
7 but Albuquerque has a successful bike shop. Took, took them 20 years of
8 planning in order to get it going but they're running now. I'm not sure how
9 their funding works there and it's, they could be TAP funding. Always
10 something that's difficult to look at but looking at a community bike shop
11 might be something worthwhile at some point, maybe partnering with
12 Transit, maybe partnering with the Mesilla Valley Housing Authority.
13 When you're looking at low incomes, you're looking at cost of living, you're
14 looking at rents, you're looking at transportation.
15

16 Pacheco: Access to food, access to services, it's all integrated.
17

18 Pearson: Yeah. The part that this body could address is transportation and that's a
19 large part of the problem.
20

21 Pacheco: If we get, if we can make clear lines of transportation to food and get rid of
22 these food islands and this obesity problem and the problem with crime
23 and people just wanting to watch TV inside their home. This is the perfect
24 connector, the gateway to all of it and it's so cool that you guys get to
25 delegate the future of Las Cruces bike program but I'd like to see it done
26 on a shoestring, much as I have been able to accomplish a lot. If you give
27 a zero budget you're forced to be creative. No one gave me a budget. I
28 guarantee it but I did have some awesome patrons that put me into touch
29 with the right people, gave me a little bit of push which I needed. I was
30 able to sustain the seven hardest years of my life doing business and we
31 are the only community bicycle shop in the downtown core and I want you
32 to study what I've done and the, the control and the environment and the
33 community that we've developed.
34

35 Pearson: So you mentioned that you're purchasing property. Are you moving to Las
36 Cruces and taking your business here to Las Cruces?
37

38 Pacheco: Expanding.
39

40 Pearson: Okay.
41

42 Pacheco: We're, we've grown that big already.
43

44 Pearson: Okay. Well thank you. Any further public comment?
45
46

1 **8. ADJOURNMENT**

2
3 Pearson: Seeing none, I'll call for a motion to adjourn.

4
5 Shearer: I move to adjourn.

6
7 Herrera: Second.

8
9 Pearson: All in favor "aye."

10
11 MOTION IS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

12
13 Meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

14
15
16
17
18
19  4/21/15
20 Chairperson
21
22