MESILLA VALLEY METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
BICYCLE and PEDESTRIAN FACILITIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The following are minutes for the meeting of the Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities Advisory Committee of the Mesilla Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) which was held May 20, 2014 at 5:00 p.m. in Commission Chambers at Dona Ana County Government Building, 845 Motel Blvd., Las Cruces, New Mexico.

MEMBERS PRESENT: George Pearson, Chair (City of Las Cruces Citizen Rep)
Jolene Herrera (NMDOT Rep)
Albert Casillas (proxy - Dona Ana County Rep)
Scott Farnham (City of Las Cruces Rep)
Mark Leisher (DAC Citizen Rep)
Ashleigh Curry (Town of Mesilla)

MEMBERS ABSENT: Karen Rishel (Las Cruces Community Bicycle Rep)
David Shearer (NMSU – Environmental Health & Safety)
Carlos Coontz (Pedestrian Community Rep)
Leslie Kryder (Bicycle Rep)
VACANT (Town of Mesilla Citizen Rep)

STAFF PRESENT: Tom Murphy (MPO)
Chowdhury Siddiqui (MPO)
Andrew Wray (MPO)

OTHERS PRESENT: Aaron Chavarria, NMDOT

1. CALL TO ORDER

Meeting was called to order at 5:01 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Pearson: First order is approval of the agenda. Are there any changes to the agenda?

Murphy: None from staff.

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

Casillas: Motion to approve the minutes.

Leisher: Second that motion.

Pearson: Motion and a second to approve the minutes as presented.

All in favor.
3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

3.1 March 18, 2014

Pearson: Ok. The next item is the approval of the minutes for March 18, 2014. I guess we can call for a motion to approve.

Herrera: I second.

Pearson: Okay, any discussion on the minutes? Any changes from anybody? Not hearing any changes, go ahead and vote, or no discussion, we’ll vote. All in favor, aye.

All in favor.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT – No public comment

Pearson: The next item is an action Item, 5.1 Amendment to the 2014-2019 Transportation Improvement Program. Oh, I know what we should have done also; we should have gone through a roll call in order to identify everybody that’s here, which I always forget to do, so why don’t we just go around, why don’t we just start with staff, Tom, and go around and identify everybody so that everybody knows who is here.

Murphy: Tom Murphy, Mesilla Valley MPO

Wray: Andrew Wray, Mesilla Valley MPO

Siddiqui: Chowdhury Siddiqui, Mesilla Valley MPO

Casillas: Albert Casillas, Dona Ana County

Leisher: Mark Leisher, Dona Ana County Citizen
5. ACTION ITEMS

5.1 2014-2019 Transportation Improvement Program Amendments

The following amendment(s) to the TIP have been requested:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CN</th>
<th>FY</th>
<th>Agency</th>
<th>Project &amp; Termini</th>
<th>Scope</th>
<th>Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>LC00100</td>
<td>2014</td>
<td>NMDOT</td>
<td>I-25 Missouri Bridge</td>
<td>Bridge Reconstruction/Widening &amp; Addition of Auxiliary Lane</td>
<td>Change BOP from MP 1.5 to MP 0.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G100030</td>
<td>2015 &amp; 2016</td>
<td>Baylor Canyon and Dripping Springs Roads</td>
<td>Unpaved Section of Both Roadways</td>
<td>Road Reconstruction - Pave unpaved sections</td>
<td>$610,000 in FY2014 for design, $5,950,000 in FY2015 for construction, $3,220,000 in FY2016 for construction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LC00140</td>
<td>2017</td>
<td>US 70</td>
<td>Intersection with 17th St.</td>
<td>New Traffic Signals and intersection improvements</td>
<td>New Project</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LC00210</td>
<td>2014 &amp; 2015</td>
<td>Goathill Rd</td>
<td>AT BNSF RR Crossing #019679L (east of Dona Ana Rd, north of Las Cruces)</td>
<td>Design and Install new lights and gates at crossing</td>
<td>$30,000 in FY2014 for design, $220,000 in FY2015 for construction</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LC00220</td>
<td>2014 &amp; 2015</td>
<td>NM 226</td>
<td>AT BNSF RR Crossing #019744P (west of intersection with Berino Rd)</td>
<td>Design and construct new crossing surface, lights, and gates</td>
<td>$30,000 in FY2014 for design, $290,000 in FY2015 for construction</td>
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This amendment will not affect any other projects currently listed in the TIP.

Wray: Thank you Mr. Chair. We have TIP amendments that are, oh wait, no; we have five TIP amendments that are on the list. I do want to take this opportunity to announce, I know I sent it out on the email, but I also want to state, as well, on the record, that historically, we had always been able to
attach TIP reports to the committee packets. Going forward in the future, that
will no longer be able to be the case, due to some database structure issues,
as far as how NMDOT up in Santa Fe wants to have the database exports
sent to them. We’re unable to create a TIP report in that particular format at
this time. So for the foreseeable future, the TIP reports that you have been
accomplished to seeing will no longer be appended to the packet. What we do
have in lieu of that is a spreadsheet, which is immediately after the discussion
page for this item. This contains most of the information, all of the vital
information for the project. The discovery that we’ll be unable to append the
TIP reports was, did not leave us any sort of time in between that discovery
and the need to get the packet distributed, so we will probably try to play
around with the spreadsheet a little bit to see if we can get a little bit more of
the information that used to be on the TIP reports onto the spreadsheet but it
does have the essential information. I do want to make note of the fact that
these are out-of-cycle TIP amendments. I requested NMDOT staff to provide
a written justification of the out-of-cycle nature of these amendments and
that’s on the page following the spreadsheet. I will stand now for any
questions.

Pearson: Okay, just to interrupt for a moment, we have a new Committee member that’s
arrived, so if you could just identify yourself?

Farnham: Scott Farnham, City of Las Cruces.

Pearson: Thank you, so are we on to talking about the individual items or do we still
have some overview?

Wray: Actually, that was it. I can speak about the individual items to some extent, if
you wish for me to.

Pearson: So the change in the Missouri bridge project, that doesn’t change any monies,
it just changes the size of the project?

Wray: Yes, Mr. Chair.

Pearson: The Baylor Canyon, Dripping Springs Road project, that’s actually later on our
agenda as a discussion item.

Wray: Yes, Mr. Chair, that is due to a request from a part of the Committee to hear
some more about the overall design.

Pearson: Ok, so at this point just discuss the funding for this?

Wray: Yes, that was my intent.

Pearson: So, can you, do we have information on where this funding came from, and ...
Wray: It's a Central Federal Lands project, beyond that I would have to defer to Ms. Herrera. I believe that's it, that it's just a Central Fed....

Pearson: Magic money that's appearing.

Wray: Yeah.

Pearson: What part? Also there were some New Mexico State Capital Improvement monies, that's also part of this?

Herrera: No, it hasn't been added to TIP, actually Dona Ana County will need to do that, add that to the TIP.

Pearson: So that'll be another amendment as part of this to add those funds.

Herrera: Probably, that's totally separate because that funding doesn't go through NMDOT at all. So until they request that from the MPO, which if they haven't, you should probably make a note to do that because they need to put that into this.

Pearson: So this is entirely federal funds.

Herrera: One hundred percent federal.

Pearson: Okay, the other question I had on the traffic signal, the City of Las Cruces, there was some discussion of a traffic signal at Amador and Melendres and the cost there was somewhere in the order of $400,000 and this cost is $700,000. Is that; is there, why would there be such a difference? Is it just because of the different requirements for the federal highway or is there some other reason?

Herrera: There's probably some other reason, to be honest. All the recent signal projects that we've done in the recent couple of years have been around $750,000, so honestly I think the City's estimate is probably a bit low.

Pearson: Okay, do you turn over the management to the City then or does NMDOT retain management of the traffic signals?

Herrera: No, they maintain our signals for us within the city.

Pearson: So it should be using the same kind of technology.

Herrera: Right.
Pearson: And it's gonna go and be integrated, whatever plan it is that's gonna control all the traffic signals?

Herrera: Yeah. Originally when we first started this project, we had it programmed at $350,000 and when we moved it from kind of the planning stages into the TIP, that's when a specific request to bump up the funding because that just, it wasn't gonna be enough.

Pearson: Okay, so maybe the City's gonna find out that it's much more expensive by the time they....

Herrera: Maybe.

Pearson: And then you had a couple of railroad projects. If only we could get the railroad crossing at the Outfall Channel Multi-use Path, but anyways.

Herrera: Well, actually the railroad section has recently been putting out a call for projects each year. So that's a time to request these, so I'm not sure if somebody requested these particular ones or so they do a call for projects for some of the local crossings and then they also have lists of crossings that need to be upgraded. So I think these ones were on the rail sections list but then there's also a time where local governments are able to put in requests.

Pearson: So try to find out how to make sure that we're on that list at least.

Herrera: Yes.

Pearson: Good ole railroad might decide to deny it; if we're on the list we can show that it's a safety concern.

Herrera: Right. Well and the funding that they're using for these is safety funding. It's a separate set aside out of the big HSIP Program that goes specifically for rail highway crossings and so it wouldn't be competing with all of the other safety projects in the State. It's own pot of money.

Murphy: Would a rail trail crossing be eligible for rail highway monies?

Herrera: I don't know. That's something to look into. I'm sure if it's not; that we can probably find a way to get it funded because it's still is a safety concern if it's not rideable. I'll ask.

Pearson: Any other Committee members have questions or discussion? Okay, I guess we haven't, I lost track of where we are. Did I call for a motion on this?

Wray: No, Mr. Chair you did not.
Pearson: So I call for a motion to approve this item?
Leisher: I move that we approve the TIP as it stands?
Pearson: And a second?
Casillas: Second.
Pearson: We have a motion and a second, all in favor aye.
All in favor.
Pearson: The next item is a discussion item for the Unified Planning Work Program

6. DISCUSSION ITEMS

6.1 Unified Planning Work Program Discussion

The UPWP is a biannual document that outlines transportation planning activities to be conducted by MPO Staff as well as processes that MPO Staff will participate in, but not oversee. The UPWP also includes a budget, allocation of staff time and money toward accomplishing the tasks. The UPWP must be in compliance with the Metropolitan Transportation Plan.

Tom Murphy gave a presentation.

Pearson: The previous or I guess the existing UPWP has a section. In the committee it says that this Committee would do an annual report and so that’s what caused my questions and as far as content, I think it can be just some basic metrics. How many trail miles do we have? How many, well probably just some information, a little background too, how many miles of roadway do we have in the MPO, and probably divided between the City and the County and the Town of Mesilla, maybe even NMDOT responsible roadways but something that gives some indication of the overall scope of how many roadways there are and then the scope of how many are marked with bicycle lanes and how many are marked, designated, marked as “Share The Road” facilities, and just do linear miles on that kind of thing. I think for the bike lanes we do, so one mile that’s on both sides would be two miles of bike lanes because we have some examples where we only have bike lanes on one side of the road and I think the “Share The Road” are probably, well maybe the other half would be the “Share The Road” type facility then, so that would give us, that would give us some basic metrics and then as we continue year to year we can build on that as we see we’re making progress. We’ve got the TAP projects that will be coming online; the second year is branch trail behind the dam.
Leisher: Mr. Chair, I have an additional suggestion to go along with that and that is to include a facilities map, a small facilities map to give a general idea of where the facilities exist.

Pearson: What I found very useful, the other things to include would be some of the counting that we’ve done. You’ve done the counting on the multi-use paths. As part of that you had included a map that outlined the city showing where those are. I found that very useful and if we had, if we could have maps like that, that showed the other bicycle facilities too, I think that would be wonderful. I don’t know how easy that type of information is available or if that can be …

Murphy: I think we can gather that information. I know we did much of that for our public input, public involvement for the MTP, so a lot of that is existing, it would just be updating with the most recent data. I guess the next pertinent question would be would we want to do that report on calendar year basis or on a fiscal year basis, just so I can put my little X in my little box here.

Pearson: I think it would be whatever is easier for staff to manage.

Murphy: Okay, I will discuss it with staff and when we come back for approval of this at your next meeting, we’ll let you know what staff perceives as the best way to do that.

Pearson: This shouldn’t be something that causes a lot of staff time but it should be something that I think, all the information is basically around, it just needs to be gathered in one spot and if we have it gathered in one spot associated with our Committee, it’s the work that we’re doing and then maybe any other work that we might have done. I think January a year ago we talked about goals for the Committee. One of the goals was going through the TAP spending process and we completed that. We talked about the work groups that we had on the suggested best practices for the Transportation Plan for bicycle lane markings and I think what we finally decided that we will continue that work, but it will be part of the next revision of the Transportation Plan. So if we had, just this is a bullet item of things that we’ve done, that would be part of that report.

Murphy: I could see both of those melded into the report, accomplishments and then goals for the following year and keep that going. So I think we can certainly work that into the work program. Any more question on that particular report or should we move on?

Pearson: How easy it is to get crash data for bike/ped? Is that something that we can pull in to be part of this?

Murphy: Yes, we get that data. We get it from all the law enforcement agencies that send their data to UNM Traffic Safety Bureau. They’re on contract with that and then we get that, they geocode it, put it in the GIS, we get that back and then….
Pearson: I remember seeing the charts that were done that showed the high incident areas and that's generated from the same data.

Murphy: That is the same data. We get that data.

Pearson: That kind of information would be helpful.

Murphy: We get that kind of data on a yearly basis and we have that actually listed in the UPWP as one of the work items that we do. Under 4.2 we have the development of the annual crash report. Under Safety Analysis and Planning and that's the work item with that. We do process pedestrian, bicycle and pedestrian separate, but there's no reason we could not reuse that work to put into the BPAC report as well.

Pearson: Having it all in one place, I think is beneficial, than trying to scatter. You know if I want to find out about the crash data, oh its bike/ped, so I have to go over here and look in the general stuff, so you know, that would be great.

Murphy: Then administration finishes up with staff and board trainings that we'd like to accomplish through the next year. We're currently are developing lists of board trainings to conduct (inaudible), MPO process, get Committee members familiar with it. Jolene, for example, will be giving a presentation to the various boards on the NMDOT's Policies and Procedure Manual, which they are in the process of finalizing their first amendment. Once that's done she'll come around and give everybody training. Task 2 revolves around the Transportation Improvement Program or the TIP. You can see the various timelines for that. The TIP gets developed on the two year cycle. We'll be doing call for project in October and then eventually get through adoption of it the following April. You can see on, under 2.1 the timeline for that. Task 3, general

Pearson: Question. Does that include the TAP?

Murphy: The TAP is a distinct funding source but it does go onto the TIP. So much of that will be done in conjunction, that's probably a good point that hasn't been brought up yet, that that needs to be its own separate item in here.

Herrera: I don't really think it needs to be separate because our goal is to work it into the process that we already have through the MPOs and the RTPOs. So we don't want a special process for TAP. We want it to be a call for projects for all projects, so TAP projects included, and then roadway, bridge, whatever other project. So we're not doing two separate processes. There will be different criteria for scoring the TAP stuff and that's something that we're still kind of working out but as far as timelines, we want it to be all on the same moving forward.
Murphy: I probably misspoke a little bit. I was thinking that it would be a separate row in this column where we typically call for projects. We'd have a TAP call for projects so that we can have the calendar visible to everyone.

Herrera: That makes more sense. I thought you meant like its own separate ...

Murphy: I understand that's what it sounded like and I thank you for jumping in there. No, I just want it as a separate row in there so we can have the timeline in there.

Pearson: Because it's a separate set of activities that we'd go through.

Murphy: Right and it definitely does take staff and committee time, so I think it needs to be represented within the work program. That going on to Task 3, General Development Data Analysis, this is, again, the general task is common to all MPOs. This is where we track our traffic counting and reporting. Within this we're including our non-motorized counting to include the trail counters that were deployed, I think we're up to, I think we have nine or ten individual counters that we're deploying around the region on a rotating basis. We also acquired a video camera that we can record not only motorized, but non-motorized traffic as well, that we'll be integrating into the process. We do population numbers. We're part of the State data center that works upward through the Census to compile the numbers state-wide. We maintain a travel demand model. At this point it's geared to transit and motor and automobile modeling, but we're always hoping that the breakthroughs will come and we might be able to do some non-motorized work as well.

Pearson: I have another question that kind of goes back to the annual report. The census, you mentioned the Census Bureau, they do an annual community something...

Murphy: American Community Survey.

Pearson: That includes modes of travel too, for commuting, that includes the non-motorized share. Maybe we should include those numbers as part of that report too, because....

Murphy: Right. I think that's gonna be something that's probably gonna shake out as we develop our performance measures and I think all the bike and ped performance measures will need to end up in that report. But from a greater, global planning standpoint, we need to pick our performance measures and report on them. I think the Census is the most widely acknowledged expert or source on these numbers so we'll definitely be using those. I think, I see where mode share is going to be certainly something that is probably gonna end up as something that we track, as well. This section also handles our development review. We, for a local governments, we review subdivision and special use and other kind of land use applications that they receive, so that will help make, help make sure that the transportation plan is being implemented. Task 4
Transportation Planning, this is where we’ll put MTP update. As you know the MTP update is due next June, so that’s going to be a very, a very busy time for staff, probably though, take up a lot of staff time through April and then it’s reviews and going through the committees, but up until that point that will be one of our major work products and then in FY16 we’ll probably not be updating the plan anymore. We have Safe Routes to School under this. We’re continuing to pledge MPO staff support, staff participation in the Safe Routes to School Coalition. Originally, I believe I’ve gotten our quarterly meetings correctly in here, and the various Walk-N-Roll and Bike to Work weeks. I think I got the calendars right, but if you want, Ashleigh, you want to send me an email.

Curry: Sure. I think its monthly meetings, not quarterly, if you’re talking about the coalition.

Murphy: Okay.

Curry: And that’s just August through May. We don’t meet in June and July. So those dates will be re-established in August. We have our next one on Thursday this week.

Murphy: Thank you very much. We would be working with, through the ITS update, and I need to finalize the calendar on that. State’s updating its state-wide ITS architecture. It will be updated, with that on a regional architecture will be updated as well. Land Use Transportation Integration, I think this is where we’re gonna be working on getting the metrics together for our performance measures, especially through the mobility zones that are called out in Transport 2040. Task 5 are special tasks and/or miscellaneous activities. These are really the big participation events that we want to call special attention to. We’re part of the regional leadership consortium that the County’s gotten through a health, HUD, Health and Urban Development, HUD? I can’t remember.

Curry: Housing.

Murphy: Housing and Urban Development, they got the $2M grant and we’re part of that consortium and we’ll continue to participate in that. We’ll be wrapping up our Transportation Asset and Safety Management Plan. I think you’ll be seeing the final draft of that plan next month. We got two corridors, Phase A Corridor Studies that we’re in the process of negotiating price on. We expect that that bulk of that work will be happening in FY15 and we’re also working on getting bids for a short range transit plan update. The appendices.

Pearson: I have question about, in this area, what about participation in the State Long Range Plan?

Murphy: That goes back under Task 1, subtask, I can’t believe I dropped it. Under the current UPWP there’s a column for State and Federal coordination. I’m not
believing that that's dropped, but it's a good catch and I'll certainly have to re-add that into there. That's right; I get to blame Dave Pinella, don't I? This was authored by the Albuquerque MPO, so I will take the blame on some things but others I may have to pass on to them. The Appendices, Appendix A still finalizing the budget stuff. The Appendix B, we already got the comment that we needed to actually change the name to the Mesilla Valley MPO on the graphic, it's an old graphic. Appendix C is the latest update on our FHWA review. Appendix D is our traffic count segments. Actually Appendix D is the approval resolution. Appendix E is the Traffic Count Segments. That concludes staff presentation on this. I will entertain any questions.

Pearson: On the traffic cycles, do you have dates; you do everything in like three years.

Murphy: We do everything in three years. We have them listed on whether they're Cycle 1, 2 or 3. I think we're in Cycle 1 actually this year. So next calendar year we'll be going into Cycle 2 and then Cycle 3.

Pearson: It might be useful to know when that's done. You know just some date. Maybe just at the beginning, comment at the beginning of the appendix maybe, that Cycle 1 is three years.

Murphy: I know in the old UPWP, under, what would be under task 3.1, I would say in the narrative there, the cycle that we're on, but probably Mr. Pinella didn't put that. I can add it into there.

Pearson: What does the TIMS number mean?

Murphy: TIMS number is a unique identifier number from the NM Department of Transportation, kind of like when you do an access database and then there's a unique identifier associated with it. It's basically that. It may as well be randomly assigned. The number has no other meaning to the rest of that roadway, other than as a....

Pearson: You might just put some indication of what that means, just so that somebody comes along and doesn't have to ask the question a thousand times.

Leisher: I assume it refers to a record (inaudible).

Murphy: Yes, it's so that they can go backward through time and look up the various data associated with that roadway.

Pearson: So where they are missing, is that just outside the City?

Murphy: Where they are missing, they have not been assigned.

Leisher: I just want to ask one question, does anybody think that (inaudible).
Murphy: I was just saying it might be better to remove the TIMS number off of that chart. As far as keeping the actual counts, since we publish the traffic count map each year I’d rather that be the kind of the official publication of that data.

Pearson: It might be worthwhile then to just put a pointer to where you keep that count data so you can say here are the segments, go find the data wherever.

Murphy: I probably need to think through the usefulness of that chart, it was kind of something that was requested from someone in Santa Fe and since that section knows exactly what everything is, I didn’t put a lot of thought into people in the real world using it.

Leisher: Maybe we should just keep the TIMS (inaudible) versus those weren’t, those that weren’t.

Murphy: They are all counted. The lack of TIMS number is something that will be straightened out by DOT as they correct their information and they’ll be able to assign a TIMS number to all the segments.

Leisher: Okay.

Pearson: Yeah, it sounds like the TIMS number is just confusing unless you’re the guy in Santa Fe.

Murphy: Right, I think it’s essentially trying to publish the roadway social security number and it, you know, it probably doesn’t give a lot of information out to the general public.

Pearson: To me, having these segments isn’t that worthwhile because even if you had them, if you’re counting everything inside the MPO, that’s enough information.

Murphy: We count all the major thoroughfares and it might be interesting to some people to see how those segments are broken up.

Pearson: Can you tell that on the count?

Murphy: You can’t really tell it on the map where the segments begin and end.

Pearson: Okay, cause you just have numbers in there?

Murphy: Mmm, hmm.

Pearson: Okay.
Herrera: Mr. Chair, if I can just add a little bit more to that. That section specifically was requested by NMDOT because we hadn't typically been asking the MPOs to report on traffic counts so basically they were doing traffic counts and reporting that to our traffic section but then, like as the liaison for the MPO, I wasn't really in the loop on that and so that's a way to kind of close the loop so that everybody knows and we thought if we just put it in the UPWP then the general public knows what everybody is doing too, so that's kind of why that's in there.

Pearson: Okay, the only other comment is some formatting where you've got upper case for some and mixed case for other street names in the first column. Any other comments on this? Okay, so let's move on to the next item, the Dripping Springs Road Project.

6.2 Dripping Springs Road Report Discussion

George Pearson requested a report be made to the BPAC regarding possible bike improvements along Dripping Springs Road.

Pearson: So it was brought to my attention, I hadn't heard about it, and then showed up on the TIP.

Wray: Mr. Chair, there is very little that staff can say about this project, at this point. It's our understanding that the design work has yet to be done. There's nothing available for public review. We've gotten this question from a number of members of the cycling community and that's the extent of the answer that I'm able to give at this time. I don't know if Ms. Herrera has any more information than that but I kind of doubt it.

Herrera: Yeah, this project is being run out of Central Federal Lands, which is a division of the Federal Highway Administration, and so it doesn't go through NMDOT at all. We don't have any control over the design. I can say that they still are required by the federal regulations to have public input meetings and stuff, it's just I don't know when those will be.

Pearson: So who is actually doing the design work for this road?

Herrera: Central Federal Lands.

Pearson: So where are they?

Herrera: They are all over the place but really the award, they are working with Dona Ana County on it. Somebody at the County maybe should have some information.

Casillas: (Inaudible)
Herrera: I do have a contact with Central Federal Lands, who’s supposed to be in charge of this region, unfortunately when I ran out of the office I didn’t bring that with me but I did make a note to send that to Tom so that he can distribute that contact information to the Committee. So for now we kind of have just been funnealing everything through him. His name is Tom and he’s with Central Federal Lands.

Pearson: Because I think over the years we’ve kind of gotten used to the process through NMDOT that we’ve got a chance and we know how the designer, generally we can see the designs before they’re built and this one is, now we’re back in the dark ages, where it’s built and then we have to complain about it. I don’t want that to happen.

Herrera: I don’t think that’s their intention, it’s just that they haven’t really announced when the public input process will start and how that will go but, but just know that they are required by federal law just like we are with our projects that they do that.

Pearson: So when they do their public announcements is that gonna go through your office also? You’ll see the press announcements for that?

Herrera: I would hope so, yeah. I mean we should be involved somehow; I’m just not exactly sure how.

Leisher: I’ve been approached by some people looking to buy houses in the area and they’ve told me directly that it’s dependent on whether that’s gonna get paved or not and whether it’s gonna have bike facilities on it or not.

Herrera: Well, I did make it clear and I can’t remember who at the County was at a meeting where we kind of discussed this a little bit and I did make it clear to him that it is on the MPO’s bicycle facilities map as, I think, a Tier 1. Something that is really important for the region and so that’s been made clear I think by everyone from DOT and then from the County as well.

Casillas: I was just gonna comment that with Engineering, I’ve been talking with Albert ??? and Angie Guerrero, she’s the Grants Administrator, and I know they’re planning on having a presentation for this Committee, it just wasn’t ready. I don’t know if it was funding or design issue, I don’t know what the issue was but they did mention that once they were ready to start having public meetings they would let us know. That’s what I recall and this was months back.

Murphy: Yeah, Albert if you could contact them and say whenever they’re ready to get on this Committee’s agenda, we will accommodate them.

Pearson: The microphone up there that should be active, right?

Casillas: Yeah, it should be.
Bardwell: Beth Bardwell, just a citizen, and I have an interest in Dripping Springs/Baylor Canyon Road project. So my question is, it's not necessarily based on information I know, it's just pure speculation. I'm just looking, trying to get my information by asking this question. So my understanding was those funds for paving of Baylor Canyon Road and Dripping Springs came through BLM as part of a federal pot of money to provide greater access to recreational areas? So that's what I heard, I haven't confirmed it, so I'm kind of framing it as a question, but that's what I've heard and so I'm wondering if that is the pot of funding, if there are requirements that come with that pot of funding that would mandate there be multi-modal associated with construction of that road so it may not be an option. That's my question. So I'll just, I'll put it out there, I don't know the answer, maybe you do or maybe it's something we can look at closer.

Herrera: I guess I don't have a specific answer for you but I can say that the Central Federal Lands projects typically are to provide access to recreational areas so that part definitely is true. I'm not sure about the process going through the BLM but I do know that that part of your statement is true. As far as certain requirements that go along with that funding, I can't say that I've ever seen them outside of what's written into the Code of Federal Regulations for all the rest of the federal money that we deal with, but because this does have to come through the MPO and the public process, just like any other federal project, I would say that we're probably definitely gonna have time to give public input and everyone knows that that's a really important route for cyclists.

Bardwell: Thank you.

Murphy: In fact further, we're gonna have the TIP amendment through our Technical Advisory Committee, here on the first Thursday of June, and we do have a representative from the, from BLM on our Board and so they're likely to have some insight on that as well. If you can all make it, we can be sure to ask but we'll be, again, in this room first Thursday of the month 4:00 p.m. and BLM should be at that meeting.

Pearson: So Dona Ana County's gonna be the lead agency? Is that correct?

Casillas: I know they were; I don't know who is the lead agency but I know they were they were on it.

Pearson: Because if it's Dona Ana County, they've passed the Complete Streets Resolution, so presumably they'd have to use Complete Streets design for that roadway.

Wray: Mr. Chair, I do not remember, off the top of my head, who's listed as the lead agency, that is I'm just now noticing one of the pieces of information that's left off of the spreadsheet. I can send out an email tomorrow with who's currently listed. That doesn't necessarily mean, um, but that's just, be relaying the information
that I was told. But I can send out an email with what I have. Ms. Herrera says it's Central Federal Lands so that's probably all we have.

Pearson: So still a mystery.

Herrera: Right, these kind of projects because we're required by the Code of Federal Regulations to include their TIP into our STIP without changing it. They pretty much just provide us with a list of projects and we put them in our STIP and if we have to go through an MPO to do that, we do. So really, they don't give us a whole lot of information other than kind of what you see on that spreadsheet there.

Pearson: But at least it served as notice to us that this project's happening. So now we're aware of it and can watch out for more notice and make sure that we insert ourselves as much as possible into that design.

Herrera: Right. I mean we will be asking the questions and by "we" I mean NMDOT because we want to know as well what's happening with it.

Leisher: Maybe we should ask the NSA.

Pearson: Well, if we can be kept updated on that as much as possible I think everybody on the Committee would appreciate that, so anymore comments on this item? Then let's go on to the next one, the San Augustine Pass Safety Report.

6.3 San Augustine Pass Road Safety Audit Discussion

Occam Consulting Engineers recently released a revised draft of their San Augustine Pass Road Safety Audit. This item is to discuss that report.

Wray: Mr. Chair, this is kind of an awkward moment because Mr. Murphy has stepped out and he was the one who was going to speak about this. I am not aware of all that Tom wanted to say. I am, well here he comes, I'll just let him....

Murphy: Sorry, did I leave at an inopportune time?

Wray: Very much so.

Pearson: We're ready for the ....

Murphy: Okay. I guess we had the, we were requested to put this on. The safety report was released and I don't know what else to say. It was developed by Safety section of NMDOT in Santa Fe, through their consultant, and I do know that there's been some back and forth about some of the recommendations in the report. It was changed from a second draft or it was re-drafted to put in all possible measures in there. Concurrently with this study going on, or
coincidentally, with this study going on, District 1 had done, you know, had done a repaving project on US 70, which is completed and completely separate from the road safety audit process. I do know that the District 1 did where they could under the constraints of the State's procurement process and Federal rules of adjusting contracts and prices, they did implement some measures contained in this report. But the whole intent of it is to come back with this report as a whole and seek some safety funding to implement the recommendations on a more global scale. I apologize, I didn't realize I was presenting on this one.

Leisher: Can I interrupt quickly with a question? Tom, has this been modified to reflect the repaving changes that have, that are occurring.

Murphy: I don't, I don't think this reflects the changes that were, the differences from the repaving. I don't think that that really changes any of the, any of the recommendations going forward. Andrew reminded me to point out one important thing that this, for the most part, takes place outside the MPO boundaries. So I do feel a little bit hesitant saying too much on it since it's really outside of our area. But since it is such an important route for people living in this area, we will have it on our, we will discuss it at our meetings and have it on our agendas.

Pearson: One of the recommendations was on guardrails and rumble strips and friendly guard rails and some part of that might have been handled with that repaving project, do you know anything, any details on that?

Murphy: I believe that that exceeded the ability for them to change order within the project. The repaving is distinctly different from guardrail work so that was not something that was permissible under the contract that was just recently completed.

Pearson: Okay, but what about the rumble strips. Could they have left the rumble strips out?

Murphy: That I don't know.

Herrera: Can I ask for clarification, left them out where?

Pearson: In front of the guardrails, the rumble strip, the indentations in the......

Herrera: Right. You mean did we?

Pearson: Were they left out in front of the guardrails?

Herrera: Unfortunately, no.

Pearson: Oh.
Herrera: There are areas where we did leave the rumble strips out, where the shoulder is fairly narrow. Where the shoulder is wide, they were put in.

Pearson: Right in front of the guardrails is a constriction point, of course.

Herrera: Right.

Pearson: Especially the downhill segment, if you’re on a bicycle you can end up going 35-40 miles an hour and if there’s debris they only have like three feet or something to travel in between the guard rail and the rumble strip and if there’s debris there, there’s gonna be a crash.

Herrera: And that’s definitely something that was acknowledged, I think, in this safety report and something that if we are able to get safety funding for this project, we’ll look at widening shoulders where we can and then where there’s guardrail, we’ll be upgrading it to the current standards and then removing rumble strips out from in front of it. The areas where there isn’t guardrail, we definitely have to put rumble strips in, it’s part of NMDOT standards that we do that.

Pearson: That’s not the problem. It’s where there’s guardrail and rumble strip.

Herrera: But there are some areas that have rumble strips and still very narrow shoulders right now, without guardrail, and so we do know that that’s an issue as well. So in places like that we’ll be trying to widen the shoulder as much as we can.

Pearson: And that repaving project didn’t extend as far as to where the, Dr. Fronczek’s crash was, is that correct?

Herrera: No, it did, it went a little past that. It went, basically, to the Aguirre Springs turn off there.

Pearson: Okay, well that crash was further...

Herrera: A little bit passed that.

Chavarria: It went to the third (inaudible)

Herrera: To the end of the climbing lane?

Chavarria: Yeah.

Herrera: Okay, so I guess it went, I can picture it in my head.

Chavarria: If you’re going westbound where the climbing lane ends, that’s where (inaudible)
Herrera: Yeah, so I believe, I'm trying to picture where the little, the bike is on the hill.

Pearson: That was not the crash location.

Herrera: Okay, it was further down from that.

Pearson: It was down where there were three lanes and where there was, there's essentially no shoulder there so the jersey barrier and then there was the partial paving issues.

Herrera: Right.

Pearson: So hopefully they would have gone all the way to the jersey barrier, that repaving project, so, right?

Herrera: You mean the concrete wall barrier or the guardrail?

Pearson: The concrete barrier that's on the shoulder side.

Herrera: So that's kind of up, further up in the pass and yes the paving does go all the way to the edge of the barrier.

Leisher: Oh, on the westbound side?

Pearson: Ok, so this completed now and it's available and so it's a resource for when we get some safety funding available which will be pursued, I guess, right?

Herrera: Yes. There is safety funding available, there's an open call for projects. They're doing it year around now. They meet quarterly to pick projects for safety funding. The next meeting of that committee will be held August 2\textsuperscript{nd}, so District 1 will be submitting a safety application for that cycle.

Pearson: Ok.

Herrera: And we're trying to secure the funding and get it out on the road as soon as possible.

Leisher: Just one question for you, Jolene. Has Ryan Blickem requested an update on this from you recently? Has he contacted you yet?

Herrera: Yes, I've actually been contacted by several members of Zia Velo. I think he's one of them. Yeah and he requested an update, also Trina Witter requested and then Mr. Kurt Austin.

Leisher: Good.
Wray: Mr. Chair, Ms. Herrera, I have a question. Has this report been finalized? I was under the impression it was, okay, still open. Where is it available for, where is a final copy available.

Unknown: Inaudible

Wray: If you could send that around please, that would be most appreciated because the last copy I had still seemed to be open for comment.

Herrera: That's a good question and actually I'll check with the HSIP program, I guess administrator, and see if there's a place where we post these online. If we don't, that seems like a really idea.

Pearson: Any other comments on this item? So Local Projects Updates?

7. COMMITTEE AND STAFF COMMENTS

7.1 Local Projects update

Casillas: Our chair and Jess Williams, they were working together in order to bring in front of the Board of County Commissioners a proclamation to declare May Bike Month. It occurred on May 13, so that's, they're declaring this month as Bike Month. Also, if you're out there biking and you happen to come up across an illegal dump or somebody who is doing illegal dumping, the County has just developed an app that you can download. If you go to the app store, type in Dona Ana County, and you should be able to download a, it's called a "No Throw" app and basically what you do with your smart phone or your android, you take a picture of what's happening out there and it sends a picture, your GPS coordinates to our Codes Enforcement Office and they'll go out there and check it out.

Curry: What's the app called?

Casillas: No Throw. It should be free, I think. That's it.

Murphy: I want the whole Committee to know, on behalf of the City of Las Cruces, the Safe Routes to School infrastructure project was, the bid and contract were approved by the Las Cruces City Council this past Monday. So that work at the 10 area schools, 12 area schools, will be beginning very shortly in the next couple of weeks. So we will have ADA improvements on sidewalks in the vicinity of the Tier 1 schools from the Action Plan.

Pearson: We should also be sure to thank NMDOT that we got double our original allocation. They spent $500,000 on this project. Thank City Staff for bringing it in at exactly $500,000 and spending every last cent which I'm sure is a very difficult thing. I can't imagine.
Murphy: We got it close enough and then the contingency was able to. A lot of hard work all around from many quarters and so I'd like to thank everybody who was involved in that.

Pearson: And that was 100% funded by Safe Routes to School.

Leisher: I just had one question, is there any update on what's going on with old Country Club, any progress updates?

Murphy: They were scheduled to be before the City's Development Review Committee tomorrow morning at 9:00 but they had to, they asked for a postponement. I'm not sure to what date that was postponed. We do have the, they did turn in a traffic impact analysis for it. I know Andrew has begun looking at it. I have not yet looked at it myself, but ......

Leisher: Ok.

Wray: Mr. Chair, Mr. Leisher, it's my understanding that meeting is postponed to June 4.

Pearson: So part of that discussion is still making sure that the bicycle facility on Madrid travels through that project connecting both ends of Madrid where it currently goes?

Murphy: Right, now they're concerning themselves with the 30 acre portion that's more towards the intersection of Camino del Rex and US 70, that they're expecting to develop first. I know that our comments have been basically to make sure that the, that the bike lanes are installed connecting up to Camino del Rex, which eventually turns into Camino Real as it turns behind Albertson's, which is a well-used bicycle facility and then also, due to the fact that US 70 is also State Bike Route 7, so we have been getting, and the developer agreed to institute the bike lanes in those instances.

Pearson: Okay, so the part that would impact the current, along Madrid, that's gonna be a separate phase, probably, of that project.

Murphy: Yes. That's not currently under discussion.

Pearson: Any other Committee member comments? May is National Bike month. We've still got a couple of events to come. Tomorrow is the Ride of Silence in Mesilla, gathering at 6:15 for a ride that will leave the Mesilla Plaza at 6:30. The Ride of Silence is an international event, the third Wednesday of the month of May, so there are literally hundreds of participants, hundreds of events throughout the country and the world to commemorate cyclists that have been lost through fatality or injured in crashes. There's gonna be a Bicycle Basics class on
Saturday at Peace Lutheran Church at eight o'clock in the morning and then the following Wednesday, May 28th at noon at City Hall will be the Mayor's Downtown Bike Ride. So everybody that's at City Hall should be able to bring their bike and come out and participate, right? And we're gonna see the Mayor on a bike, he promised, and I'm gonna bring the bike for him and that's all I have. Now we get our special NMDOT projects update.

7.2 NMDOT Projects update

Herrera: I, of course, didn't bring that with me. I do have a couple of things, I guess that I can update on and then, if there are any questions about specific projects, we can go over that. Our District 1 PIO sent out a public notice Monday, I believe, about the upcoming public meetings for the NM 28 chip seal project that will be happening. There's one this Thursday at 6:00 p.m. at the Solano yard, NMDOT Solano yard. Andrew sent it out yesterday, was it or Monday?

Wray: Yes, I sent it out, press release from NMDOT. It was probably late in the day, not far from five yesterday, but there was a press release sent out yesterday.

Herrera: Okay, so there's that one and then there will another meeting held next Thursday on, I believe, it's the 29th in La Mesa. Just to let everybody know what the process is gonna be because there will be lane closures and a pilot car process and we want to give everyone a heads-up on what the delays will be and what they should expect through construction.

Pearson: Okay

Herrera: So there's that and then also you've maybe seen the message boards if you've been heading on 70 kind of up the hill, we're gonna start the concrete wall barrier that goes from the interchange there at 25 and 70, all the way to where the cable barrier starts, on May 27. So that's next Monday.

Pearson: On US 70?

Herrera: On US 70.

Pearson: Oh, that's to do the ……

Herrera: The concrete wall barrier, where the median is, so we'll be ripping that out, paving and then concrete wall barrier all the way through there. So the last that I checked with the project manager, they were supposed to have abbreviated hours to avoid rush hour so they'll have abbreviated hours during the week and working probably the full day on weekends, but we'll have monthly meetings and updates and stuff on that project and then, you all also probably know the North Main project is underway.
Pearson: Your phone probably rings continuously on that one.

Herrera: Mine doesn’t but I’m sure somebody’s phone rings continuously on that one. It’s gonna be a long project. The City is also upgrading utilities at the same time so expect to see construction out there probably for the next year. So that’s, it’s gonna be a long project.

Curry: Jolene, do you happen to know about how long the Highway 28 project’s gonna take? What’s the duration of that?

Herrera: Sure, actually I have the press release right with me somewhere. I believe it’s a month. It’s gonna be a really short project. We want to get it done as soon as possible. Let me find my paperwork.

Murphy: Starts June 16 and scheduled to start on June 16 at mile marker zero (0) and work North, they’re gonna do it in four mile intervals but the, I don’t believe that they have an end date on the press release.

Herrera: There isn’t but the project manager I spoke to him on Friday and he said that the work would take a month.

Pearson: On NM 28 project, of course, is important, it’s NM Bike Route 1 and also Viva Dona Ana project has issued their draft report on bicycle infrastructure. Have you seen that?

Herrera: I have.

Pearson: Okay and so their recommendation is to do a full bicycle facility from state line to Las Cruces which, of course, this project won’t impact. Some part of the project maybe a third to a quarter, the shoulders might be wide enough, but maybe we can have you consider putting bike lanes or at least doing the shoulder lane lines as if they were bike lanes, like at intersections, put dotted lines up to the intersection, things like that. This gives us an opportunity to implement some part of that Viva Dona Ana Plan free, essentially. So I wonder if we can follow-up, see how, if that’s possible.

Herrera: Yea, it never hurts to ask. I don’t think that it’s too late to change striping plans right now just because we haven’t even started the paving they have but the striping obviously comes after that, so we might have some time to do that.

Pearson: Cause especially through Mesilla there’s already a shoulder. It’s essentially a bicycle lane, it’s not marked as a bicycle lane, but if it’s striped like a bicycle lane, even if there’s no money for signage, if the striping’s done right, I think that will improve safety.
Herrera: Okay. Yeah, we can certainly look into that. Also these are the kind of comments that we want to hear at the public meetings too. We're having the public meetings to let everybody know what's happening, but then also to get some input because I did have a comment at the El Paso MPO meeting from a cyclist who was concerned about kind of what we were doing there, which is what spurred having the public meetings. I can say that we do realize that State Bike Route 1 we will be paving full-width. Unfortunately we are not looking at widening shoulders or anything like that with this project. It's specifically a pavement project but it will be all the way to where the shoulder stops however wide that may be.

Pearson: Right. To implement Viva Dona Ana Plan, I don't remember what the dollar amounts that are associated with that but I'm sure there's, it's probably in the millions, if there's right-of-way involved.

Herrera: There is right-of-way involved. Aaron and I actually drove that entire segment of road, I guess it's been six months or so, looking specifically at right-of-way issues and we would have to purchase a lot of right-of-way and there's also headwalls for the channels and stuff that are encroaching. It would be a really expensive project. Not out of the question but for NMDOT right now too expensive.

Pearson: It may not be an NMDOT, it may not be NMDOT monies, if they show up with money some place and do that someday it would be wonderful. I mean that's, of course, we want perfection. We do what we can and try to meet as close as we can with monies available.

Leisher: Should we get ahold of our congressional representatives and start lobbying for money?

Herrera: That would be great.

Curry: Another question, more from the biking community that somebody had asked once, is it possible to have community members donate money to sort of buy a sign that says this is a bike road or something like. If so, would NMDOT be able to put those in and what is the cost for a sign. That's sort of a random question.

Herrera: You know I'm not really the expert on that but we do have somebody who is. I can get you his contact information. It's actually Harold Love. You've probably all met him at some point in time, so Harold Love would be the one to contact on that.

Curry: Great, thanks

Herrera: That's kind of all that I had. Avenida de Mesilla's on time, as far as I know, everything's okay. I believe construction should be ending sometime this fall.
don't have a specific date but if there are any specific questions I can write them
down and get answers for you.

Pearson: The other project that's still down the pipe someplace but is Valley Drive from
Picacho to Avenida de Mesilla?

Herrera: Yes.

Pearson: That's probably, it hasn't even gone into the design phase yet, I don't think.

Herrera: No. it hasn't. We were just in the process of selecting a consultant to do that
project a couple of weeks ago. I think they're in negotiation now for that.

Pearson: But it seems like there's right-of-way there, so maybe something that might work
is even protected bike lanes on there. We've had fatalities inside the NMDOT
portion and in City portion. It's a high speed road, so maybe protected bike lanes
is an option to look at. It'd be nice to know if that's included as part of the design
thought process at least.

Herrera: It is. We have asked the consultant to look at every possibility for cyclists and
pedestrians as well, because we have so much right-of-way there. So there will
be some sort of bike facility on the road, we're just not exactly sure what. So
we'll see what the consultant comes up with and then ...

Pearson: Ok. How far down the road, when should we start looking for those public input
meetings?

Herrera: Probably soon. I'm not exactly sure when. It depends on how long it takes to go
through negotiations but I would imagine within the year. I mean maybe within
the summer even. We'll definitely keep the MPO and this Committee involved in
that.

Curry: If so, a part of that from Hadley and I can't think of what the next road north is but
before Picacho, it's part of a Safe Routes To School mapped route from
McArthur Elementary on Valley, so if we can just keep that in mind and I don't
know if Safe Routes To School can be involved somehow, in just making sure
that it's considered a pedestrian path.

Herrera: Ok. Yeah, sure.

Curry: Thank you.

Herrera: We have to have or the consultant will have public input meetings but then we'll
also have stakeholder meetings. So I'll make sure that this Committee is
included and then I'll mention Safe Routes To School as a stakeholder as well.
8. PUBLIC COMMENT – No public comment

9. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

Mark Leisher motioned to adjourn.
Albert Casillas seconds the motion.
All in favor.

Chair