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 July 21, 2015 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)
                   James Nunez (City of Las Cruces Rep)
                   Jolene Herrera (NMDOT Rep)
                   Ashleigh Curry (Town of Mesilla Citizen Rep)
                   Albert Casillas (DAC Rep)
                   Andrew Bencomo (Pedestrian Community Rep)
                   Jamie Lakey (NMSU - Proxy)

MEMBERS ABSENT: Duane Bentley (Bicycle Community Rep)
                Mark Leisher (DAC Citizen Rep)
                Karen Rishel (Bicycling Community Bicycle Rep)
                David Shearer (NMSU - Environmental Safety)
                Lance Shepan (Town of Mesilla Rep)

STAFF PRESENT: Andrew Wray (MPO)
               Michael McAdams (MPO)
               Sharon Nebbia (MPO)

OTHERS PRESENT: Jerry Paz - Molzen Corbin
                Wyatt Kartchner - Molzen Corbin
                Denise Weston - Bohannan Huston
                Tandy Freel - Bohannan Huston
                Becky Baum, Recording Secretary, RC Creations, LLC

1. CALL TO ORDER (5:05 p.m.)

Pearson:  I'll call this, the Mesilla Valley MPO Bicycle/Pedestrian Facilities Advisory Committee to order. First order of business then, well let's have an introduction for everybody that's on, so we make sure we've got somebody that's, couple of new members or a proxy. We'll start at the end.

Bencomo:  Andrew Bencomo.

Nunez:  James Nunez, City of Las Cruces.

Curry:  Ashleigh Curry, Citizen Representative, Town of Mesilla.
2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Pearson: Approval of the agenda is next. Are there any changes for the agenda? Hearing none, I'll hear a motion to approve the agenda as presented.

Bencomo: So moved.

Curry: I second.

Pearson: Mr. Bencomo.

Curry: Ashleigh Curry.

Pearson: Seconds. All in favor, "aye."

MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

Pearson: Any opposed? Hearing none, that passes.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

3.1 May 19, 2014

Pearson: Next is approval of the minutes. Do we have some discussion on approval of the minutes?

Curry: I have one thing that I just noted, thank you, I have one thing that I noted just in the members present and members absent. We didn't have Lance Shepan, members absent and we had others present. We had Andrew Bencomo twice. He's listed as members present and others present.

Bencomo: Was it my evil twin too.

Curry: Duplicate people.

Bencomo: We also want to correct, I don't remember Scott being here and ...

Pearson: No.
Bencomo: And I don't, I'm pretty sure I'm not proxy anymore. I'm the City Rep.

Pearson: Yeah that would've been the question, I think he was, well it's a matter of the staff, MPO staff should know if he was appointed or not by that time.

Wray: No. He was a full member at that point.

Pearson: Okay.

Wray: That's an error.

Pearson: So we need to correct that. Strike Scott. Also strike from member absent Carlos Coontz. He was, he had actually resigned by then and was replaced and it shows the replacement is present, Mr. Bencomo. Okay so did we get all, all these changes? So we have, Mr. Nunez needs to not be a proxy but just the City of Las Cruces Rep and strike Scott Farnham from members present. Strike Carlos Coontz as, from members absent and add ...

Curry: Lance Shepan.

Pearson: Shepan from Town of Mesilla as members absent. Are there any, any other discussion on the minutes?

Curry: And then other, others present strike Andrew Bencomo.

Pearson: Okay. I'll entertain a motion to accept the minutes as amended.

Nunez: I'll make the motion.

Curry: And I'll second it.

Pearson: I have a motion and a second. All in favor, "aye."

MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

Pearson: Any opposed? And the minutes are approved.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

Pearson: We have our County Representative has joined us now for the record. And next item is public comment. Do we have any members of the public that wish to comment at this point? Seeing none.
5. **ACTION ITEMS**

5.1 Recommend Approval of the Amendments to the 2016-2021 Transportation Improvement Program

Pearson: We'll move on to Action Items. We have a TIP recommendation.

Wray: Thank you Mr. Chair. I'd like to ask the Committee to turn to page 29. There are a number of TIP amendments being requested by NMDOT and I want to clarify at this point that these amendments are for the 2016-2021 TIP that was approved by the Policy Committee at their last meeting so this is not the TIP that we are currently in right now. This is the TIP that starts in October.

First off we have an amendment to LC00110 which is the El Camino Real at Dona Ana School Road interchange and there's an additional $42,746 for that project. LC00240 is a shoulder-widening project, additional $350,000 for preliminary engineering in FY '16 and '17. LC00250 is the University Avenue and Triviz project that we discussed at some length during the run-up to the MTP. There's an additional $1.2 million going into Fiscal Year 2016 for preliminary engineering. Then LC00270, this is a new project for US-70 for a capacity and safety study. And then on the next page, page 30, 1100820 is the new project for the West Mesa Road and I do want to ask Jolene for clarification. Is this kind of a resurrection of the, of the project that was voted off the TIP last year?

Herrera: Yes it is. This is the exact same TIP amendment that we had asked for last year that the Policy Committee did not approve. So it's, it's the same thing.

Wray: And those are the amendments being requested and I'll stand now for any questions.

Pearson: So on the last one the West Mesa Road, that's just a placeholder, there's no funding identified at this point?

Wray: The funding is on page, on page 31. It's the last project listed on that page.

Herrera: Mr. Chair if I could add some clarification to that. The funding that we're requesting now is for the Phase 1C and 1D portion so there is no construction funding set aside yet.

Pearson: So that's just planning and ...

Herrera: Right. This is for preliminary design and things.
Pearson: Environmental studies.

Herrera: Yes.

Curry: Mr. Chair, Ms. Herrera, may I ask a quick question. Is that the bypass, the truck bypass road that would be going from Santa Teresa up to I-10, is that what that is?

Herrera: Yes.

Curry: Okay. Great. Thanks.

Pearson: Anybody else have any comments on this? Hearing none I'll hear a motion to accept as presented.

Curry: I'll make a motion to accept as presented.

Lakey: I'll second.

Pearson: Jamie?

Lakey: Yeah. Jamie Lakey.

Pearson: Having a motion and a second. All in favor, "aye."

MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

Pearson: Any opposed? So that item is passed.

6. DISCUSSION ITEMS

6.1 Presentation on the Valley Drive Improvement Project

Pearson: So now we're into Discussion Items. First up is a presentation on Valley Drive improvement project.

Wray: Thank you Mr. Chair. At this time I'd like to turn the floor over to the staff of Molzen Corbin. They will be giving this presentation.

Wyatt Kartchner gave his presentation.

Pearson: Go ahead.

Bencomo: Mr. Chair, I have several questions, some of them may be questions cause I'm new to this group and I'm a little ignorant for certain things so on
the statistics he had for accidents, were those vehicle to vehicle accidents
only or did they include bicyclists being hit, pedestrians?

Kartchner: It was any kind of accident that ...

Bencomo: Any kind.

Kartchner: Yes sir.

Bencomo: Okay.

Kartchner: Any kind of accident that had a police report filed.

Bencomo: Okay. Well that seemed pretty low for that number of years. I was, I'm
surprised.

Paz: That's how, how the officers code that accident is what's being pooled as
a, as a vehicular accident so it's, it's highly dependent on the, on how that,
that's coded and the data is given to us by the State. You may know that
there was a bicycle death on that corridor ...

Bencomo: Correct.

Paz: Within the last three to four years and so it was, either the nature of the
accident didn't show up on a police report but we're mindful of that
because you know we are here and we do understand that that was a, a
condition that existed on the corridor that through our design, through our
lighting that we're trying to make this a safer corridor but it, what Wyatt
reported was what was actually archived and retrieved from the State
Police and the, the official records.

Bencomo: Thank you. Yeah, I was wondering about that because I, I had thought it
was in that section where that bicycle death occurred.

Paz: Yes.

Bencomo: But I wasn't positive.

Paz: It was near Hadley, near the Hadley area in that, in that response. You
know there was a number of issues along with that accident that it may
have been just coded differently but ...

Bencomo: Okay.

Paz: We, we were mindful of that and are aware of that.
Bencomo: Thank you. And then this kind of doesn't have anything to do with bicycle/pedestrian but I just had a question so for Fire Station Number 3 cause in my previous life that was part of my, so signalization for that station, there's currently signals there. Is that going to be kept there or those gonna be done away with? Curious.

Kartchner: We've met with the fire station and their main concern was for that access across the median that they have now.

Bencomo: Correct.

Kartchner: That was also a concern of AMR who is also along the corridor, is they have to go down south on Valley Drive and turn around and so they wanted access to North Valley Drive just by a median cut so as far as, I don't know, is there a signal there?

Paz: No there's not a preemptive signal.

Kartchner: No there's not, no.

Paz: It's, it's, I'm sorry. It was, there's not a preemptive signal there now so that's something that we'll consider in the design phase of the project, whether there needs to be some, some warning signals that are attached to that and, and so those, those are elements that need to be worked through as we move forward in the project. If you look at that Amador Proximo plan that was just unveiled by the City of Las Cruces, that fire station goes away so, and they're going to design a new one or somewhere in the vicinity but it is no longer going to be situated there so that, that's an evolving discussion that we'll be going through as that moves along.

Bencomo: Okay. Yeah cause maybe since I left it was taken down but there are signals for that fire station. They're not constantly used but they were accessed from inside the station and they could be turned on and off as they responded. But anyway that kind of is that subject. Question about the, the pervious concrete: How well does that work? Cause I'm thinking to myself it takes probably a while to drain through that. I don't know how it all works, I've never seen it but the way we get rains around here, I mean they just dump and then they're done. Will it handle that?

Kartchner: Right. Yes. We actually did some tests out on this strip out here that's at Dona Ana County. We did an ASTM test which basically you set a 12-inch diameter cylinder on that and then you fill that with water and you determine how quickly that infiltrates. And we found through that pervious concrete that's out here that was poured as a test strip without any really QA/QC or, that it drained over 108 inches per hour.
Bencomo: Wow.

Kartchner: And so on that project that we're doing in Peralta we found that it can handle two 100-year storms back to back. So if we get a hundred-year storm today and then tomorrow we get another one it would handle it without any issues where ... 

Bencomo: Interesting.

Kartchner: Your typical storm drain system your ponds would be full after one storm, one 100-year storm so.

Bencomo: Right.

Paz: And also as Wyatt mentioned earlier it requires maintenance. You know the, you know the, the short story's when we first tested that, that test section that's out here was, had, had not been maintained in seven years since it was poured and it had about this much sand that covered it which wouldn't be typical of what we have in sandstorms around here. It's on the east face of a wall so the, the sand blows over and it just lands and it plugged every pore. Our first run of that test was zero. It didn't drain at all and then we took a ShopVac and vacuumed it out and then it was 108 inches per hour so it does require maintenance. It requires a vacuum, a sweeper with a vacuum attachment to go over there two or three times a year and, and, and extract that sand and that sediment that would, you would, it, you know clog it up with tires and with mud and, and such and such but all pavement requires maintenance and that would be an element. Here in the city they have the equipment. They have the sweepers with the vacuum attachments on it so that was, that was a consideration in that.

Curry: May I, may I add a question along that line as well? My concern, I think it was Option C had the pervious concrete on the bike path and my thought is when you have drainage you have all the sort of road crud for lack of you know better term that comes onto the road when it rains and then that's, you'll, A you've got the water and obviously it's draining well but you've also got all of the debris that washes with rainwater and drainage going along and how that would work? I, I mean to me as a cyclist I think I would choose not to be on that bike path after a rainstorm until it's been cleaned.

Paz: Yeah, the, what we've, what we've recommended in Peralta where, where it's now under construction for that particular project was similar to how they operate the SWIP plans where after a one-inch rainstorm then the, the equipment would be out there maintaining the facility like they do the,
the sedimentation facilities under a SWIP program so we kind of use that as our benchmark for the maintenance. The surface itself, on that other project the landscape architect for the DOT, Bill Hutchinson he, he actually vetted that through the bicycle community up there and they were, they had driven on other test sections and found it to be an adequate surface for, for the, for the, even the narrow-tire bicyclists.

Curry: Okay. Thank you.

Bencomo: Let's try again, just one more and these two kind of go together. The, the view where you had the raised median or the bike path was raised, I actually, and, and, and I've, have a question about that. Is it, seems like we always separate the pedestrian and the bicycle and we have two separate places for them and could they not work together, why don't we do that especially in a road, I mean we have lots of space on Valley Drive it appears because of the easements that were given over time but to combine those together. I, I like the idea of a raised area for pedestrian or bicycle. In this day and age and it's just gonna get worse, people are looking at their phones, they're staring at screens that are in their fancy new cars, drifting off the road and that's when people get hit. It's, it's great to have a bike lane with a separation there painted on the ground but that's not going to stop a car necessarily from, from doing that when people aren't paying attention to what they're doing so I, I like the idea of, of the raised areas for whether it's pedestrian or bicyclists, a little separation. And curiosity maybe somebody on the Committee can explain this to me or maybe you guys can; why do we always separate bicycle and pedestrian? I realize they're two modes, different modes of travel but could work together and possibly save space by doing some of that too, and modifying.

Kartchner: I think there's a couple of reasons. There's different variations of bicyclists. There's your family that's out there with their kids that's going to be wanting to be basically on the sidewalk or in a shared path and then there's your commuter bicyclists or your bicyclists that ride on the interstate when it's allowed and they would be in the travel lane if possible and so the on-street bicycle lanes kind of cater more towards the, I'm gonna say hardcore bicyclists for no, lack of a better term in that it gets them as close to the driving lane as possible but it gives them a safe place so that, Valley Drive has a speed limit of 45 miles an hour and so people are really zooming along so it gives them a safe place to, to ride.

Bencomo: Okay. Thank you.

Curry: Mr. Bencomo, may, maybe I can add, I think, were you thinking something along the lines of the Triviz trail and along Triviz there are bike
lanes but there's also a multiuse path that people can use both, is that what you have in mind?

Bencomo: Something like that. I, I mean obviously the Triviz path to me is, is slightly narrow for use of both and when I run there, cause I'm a runner a lot of times I'll have a bicycle come up real quick behind me and then, "On your left!" and they startle you. They're too close when they say that.

Curry: Right. I, yeah.

Bencomo: I don't know which way to go but ...

Curry: And as I'm the one that's yelling at you, "On your left," I would say that should answer the question of why not to put bicycles and pedestrians on the same path for that, you know for that reason and I think as, as Wyatt had said that different speeds of the use of the shared road make it a little bit tricky. Somebody's out walking the dog and they've got a leash and you come along on a bicycle and the dog runs out in front of you. I think it's a really good idea no matter the speed of the bicycle to have, if it's possible and there's space to have separated bike and pedestrians. I'm, I'm particularly a fan of separating if, if space and money allows.

Bencomo: Correct and while I, I don't disagree with the, the, the separation I'm talking about like a complete separation: Here's the sidewalk over here, now we need space for the bike lane. Can they be combined in some way and still keep them a little separate? I think part of the trail in Albuquerque along the river is that way. They have on one side two lanes with dotted line down the center and then they have space on the other side still and you can kind of use both so just some thoughts. But specifically I do like the idea of having some kind of raised protection between roadways and whether it's walkers or bikers or whoever, just like I said people are totally not paying attention on a lot of times, even with the new laws no texting and driving, everybody still does it.

Kartchner: It's worse, yeah. Seems like it's worse.

Bencomo: Yeah.

Curry: I'd like to just add a, an, another thought and this is not necessarily particular to this presentation although I think it is inclusive of, of it, I, you know what I'm really noticing coming back, I was just in Europe this summer and noticing even just in you know smaller towns, there's a really consistent look for how bicycles and pedestrians interact around the whole city and I feel like we have so many different ways of doing it. We have a bike path and then we have a shared road and then we have this and it's all choppy in bits and parts and like half-mile, mile long segments. There's
a road diet where we have inlay in back roads and there's another one we
have a multiuse path and I wonder if we have kind of a cohesive city plan
for how biking should look so that it's not, you know every time we have a
little bit of funding we're looking at how this next half mile or this mile can
work but as a whole what do we want, as a city, as a county, what do we
want the whole thing to look like and working just in general towards that
as a whole. I mean I look at the funding we just spent from Safe Routes to
School to improve between Hadley and McFie on, on Valley Drive and you
know we just put a, a chunk of money into building sidewalks and things
like that and then realizing that that probably you know really quickly will
be dug up and, and replaced with something else whereas if there was
some kind of greater plan and, and maybe there is one in place, of what
overall we should have it look like, it would also maybe even address the,
you know the conflict that you guys have obviously put a ton of work into
doing all this research and then the Amador Proximo coming along and
saying, "Hey how about not that? How about something completely
different?" So yeah I mean just as, as a general, I'm looking at, I mean
but we're looking at everything piecemeal month by month or year by year,
chunk of money by chunk of money. What's our overall goal and plan in
Las Cruces and Dona Ana County? It's, I'm not necessarily asking you
that question.

Kartchner: I was going to say I wish I knew.
Curry: I just, you know ...
Pearson: Please answer that.
Wray: Mr. Chair, Ms. Curry. I would offer that that is part of the reason for the
BPAC's existence ...
Pearson: Exactly.
Wray: Is that very ...
Pearson: Perfect.
Wray: Overall vision that those ideas are generated here by this body in addition
to others but that is one of the big reasons why the BPAC exists is to
create that cycling vision.
Curry: So, thank you Mr. Wray but what are, what are we doing to achieve that
other than you know approving or disapproving as these little projects
come in? I mean how are we overall working in that direction to make that
a reality?
Wray: Not to sound trite but we invite the consultants for the Valley Drive project to come speak to you and you offer your opinions to them. But I mean literally that's, that, that is part and parcel of why we invited Molzen Corbin to this meeting was for you to offer the, the vision as it were, what you would like to see, what you would not like to see and admittedly while it would be nice to be able to do a nice one day consistent project that reality is, that's never going to be a situation that'll happen so we have to approach things ...

Curry: But see I, I'm sorry to interrupt but I think that that's, I think that's a, that's a bad attitude to have, to say that it'll never happen. I mean I think that there, there are places all around the world that it is consistently happening because they have a broader plan and I think we need to somehow figure out how to get that broader plan so that every little piece of the puzzle goes together into, into one big look. You know, and again I'm sorry I may be you know sidelining your guys' presentation and I don't mean to do it but I'm just trying to look at the big puzzle, the big jigsaw puzzle. I mean I feel like we, every time we come we put together three pieces of a puzzle and three pieces of a puzzle and three pieces of a puzzle and then we realize that the puzzle, actually all the pieces don't belong to the same puzzle you know and so we've got all these patches of how biking and walking and pedestrian access looks in the city and the county so.

Wray: Mr. Chair, Ms. Curry, I, I didn't exactly misspeak but I guess I miscommunicated. I wasn't necessarily speaking of the overall plan because that, the MTP is the overall plan. That's what, that's, that's where the MPO puts its opinions overall so that's, that's why we went through the MPO or the MTP process over the past two years ...

Curry: Sure.

Wray: Getting that together. I, I was speaking more of the implementation side of it where it has to be for funding reasons done a bit at a time.

Curry: Sure. Sure.

Pearson: We've got the Transit 2040 which gives the overriding vision of what should happen but at a lower level even I think the City doesn't have a bicycle plan that says, "This is where we expect to be able to do things in the next two, five, or ten years," and maybe that's something that we could talk to City staff about and see if, I mean do you agree with that or not. Is that a ...

Wray: I'm not in a position to offer ...
Pearson: Right, I mean as far as ...

Wray: An opinion on that one.

Pearson: But the City does not have a separate bicycle plan. They just rely on what's in the Transit 2040.

Wray: That's correct.

Pearson: So maybe that's something that we could recommend to the Policy Committee that the City looks at having their own bicycle plan for implementation.

Wray: Could be done.

Bencomo: Mr., Mr. Chair. I'm sorry. I think we're, we're sidelining their presentation.

Pearson: Right. I ...

Bencomo: What I do, I agree with you 100% Ms. Curry, 100% I think it sounds to me like the BPAC needs to have for lack of a better term maybe a work session and we need to figure out with, amongst ourselves, we're a recommending body so maybe we need to get together and make those recommendations and come up with plans and ideas that you have from other countries, other states and then when we come forward, then talk to professionals like this that know, "Well, that'd be great to do that but that really won't work," or ...

Curry: Right.

Bencomo: "It's going cost this much," and so ...

Curry: Right. I agree and I'm sorry to sideline the, the presentation. It wasn't my intention at all but I do, I agree a work session might be a good thing.

Bencomo: Yeah.

Curry: Yes. Okay. Thank you.

Pearson: Well and, and I ...

Nunez: If I, if I could interject and jump on that too, I think and maybe you can help me too Jerry, is the design guidelines and standards so I'm not sure what's in there. I'm going over them I know, I know that some of the road sections that we meet, but, then that goes all the way to the level of City
Council approval so we go through a review of those occasionally, every so many years. So help me out on that Jerry.

Paz: Right. There's City standards that have you know various pedestrian and, and bicycle facilities that are built within the City design guidelines but the other thing that makes it problematic or, or opportunistic however you look at it, every segment of road is unique.

Curry: Absolutely, yeah.

Paz: You know this, this segment, I mean we just finished the North Valley from Picacho to the city limits. There was no right-of-way without taking out 32 businesses and so that plan to implement full pedestrian and bicycle access was just kind of stuck for 14 years because nobody really wanted to bite the bullet and say, "We're going to take these businesses out of business and, and push them away." And so the decision was made, "We're going to cram everything we can into the right-of-way that's there rather than lose the money and have it go somewhere else." So it, it was just, it was just stalemated for 14 years until it got unstuck and so you have a shared lane. That's all that was you know physical at that time. And then now we have 250 foot of right-of-way, there's just all kinds of room so now the ideas can be a little bit more generous. So every segment of road does get unique treatment based on just what you have and what ... 

Curry: Yeah.

Paz: Able to work with. From Hadley to Picacho it is very narrow so this side, frontage road or any linear park or any, all that has to go away. We're going to have to squeeze it more down to something that's manageable.

Pearson: And there might not even be room for the buffering for the bike lanes then, 

Paz: Right. So we'll, we'll, you know we might have to, you know I like the idea of the 11-foot lanes cause that does give us more room for, for both pedestrian and, and bicycle access and, and so you're just kind of fitting it within there ...

Curry: Sure.

Paz: And you're trying to make it work. It just so happened that this was a lot of right-of-way in this segment and said, "Hey let's think about a linear park, pond concept or," that, that wouldn't have come up on another job because it just didn't lend itself to that.

Nunez: Mr. Chair, I have a few questions.
Pearson: Yes.

Nunez: And I don't know whoever else does but I've only got a few. I think I can get through them pretty quick. I had written down also the impervious concrete, or not impervious, pervious.

Paz: Impervious won't work.

Nunez: So the, so the, so you addressed that pretty much. And then too I'm, I'm not sure which direction cause you've shown us a number of sections of road here, different designs and I would think that in some of these I would be worried that you could get to those and get the equipment to clean it is, but I saw some of the, the, the, the raised sections and some of the trees et cetera. So anyway that was a little bit of concern.

Paz: Well, shouldn't even have gone off on the pervious concrete because it was not recommended in the end. It was, the City did not want it. They didn't want the maintenance, they didn't want the hassle. They felt like Burn Lake was there and it, it's available, it's close enough to where we could take advantage of it and, and so that need kind of went away and so it was, it's, it's not a part of the project. We kind of got excited about it but it's not going to happen.

Nunez: Okay. Thanks for addressing that.

Paz: Yeah.

Nunez: I thought I heard a rumor or something like that. The, so to that end you also, when I was looking and I was counting up some of your numbers on your road section you mentioned this already too where it chokes down but this looks like about 150 on some of your sections, is that correct or corridors, okay. So whenever you mentioned with the right-of-way and obtaining additional right-of-way did you mean for the drainage to get to the, to the, right-of-way to get drainage out or I didn't know what you meant by obtaining additional right-of-way.

Kartchner: It was more of an "if it was necessary." We don't believe it is necessary. There may be a corner or two maybe that in order to get the, the turn lane in in an intersection or something we may need just a sliver but as far as overall there's, shouldn't be any really right-of-way impacts.

Nunez: Very good. Okay the next item is some of the comments and you mentioned you talked to a number of businesses and other people. Did you have any comments that stand out, if you can give me a couple, some feedback that you liked or worries or anything?
Kartchner: I think the biggest worry from the business owners was construction time, impact that it's going to have on them during construction, how long construction's going to take. One of the things that they brought up was phasing the project. They suggested building it from, in chunks so basically use Amador as your halfway mark so everything south of Amador, build it, be done, walk away and then build everything north of Amador as another, either a separate project or phase the project such that it didn't inconvenience everybody at the, at the same time.

Paz: And, and you know they're all watching North Main Street and they're just like, "We're going to go out of business if that happens here." So they're, they're kind of looking at other projects that are struggling and they're thinking that, and it, and in all reality it, you know it's a roll of the dice which contractor gets it and how they execute the project so it's, you know that's clearly on their mind as an issue that they brought up. The other thing is that through our web-based live streaming video and Facebook/Twitter comment opportunities we, we, on our first public meeting we reached out and touched about 250 people that were, that were counted through that public meeting. If we get like 30 people at public meeting we all like high-five each other and say, "Hey this was a great meeting!" We're disappointed in the second meeting. We touched about 80 people and we thought, "Oh, what happened?" But then when you think 80 people it was still a good response and, and using a more of a interactive people could participate at home and just call in or Facebook a question and, and we were able to answer that live so I think it was, it, it, we did reach out and have some success in that.

Nunez: Okay thanks. I was just involved in a project at NMSU where we moved the fuel tanks and we ended up getting, having to remove additional soil and a little bit additional cost that I didn't foresee so whenever you mentioned all these gas stations and the tanks and stuff. Do you foresee or is that part of the project, any environmental issues, or if you'd kind of address that?

Kartchner: We actually are doing borings this week. Our geotechnical engineer's doing pavement borings, but at the request of the environmental engineer it's also going to look for those hazardous materials within those borings to see, see what's out there. And so we kind of relocated some of those borings to be in those areas.

Nunez: All right. Thanks. And then let's see ...

Pearson: Let's just follow up on that quickly. It's got to be the case if you got it, like a gas station that had a leak that the leak extended into the public right-of-way and that's where you're concerned, is that right?
Kartchner: Yes, yes.

Pearson: That's all.

Nunez: Two more real quick. One comment is, is, I did like the, I think our minimum bike width is, dedicated lane is four feet, you have the five so that's nice. And then also the last is when you put up on the screen you had in parentheses 17 signals. Are you saying that you're proposing having 17 or there's existing 17 that you're looking at?

Kartchner: We looked at 17 intersections.

Nunez: Intersections, okay.

Kartchner: Yes.

Nunez: Thanks. That's all I had.

Paz: And, and only those intersections that currently have signals were the only ones that warranted it going forward so there would no, be no net, new signals.

Pearson: Okay.

Casillas: Just a quick question. Were there any talks about a, maybe a right-of-way acquisition especially like in that area where this, I guess Valley Drive gets a little bit more, more narrower?

Kartchner: We kind of looked at it but Valley Drive in that area, the businesses are, their front door is right at the right-of-way line and so, and the only really way to acquire right-of-way is to take a business.

Casillas: Oh. Okay.

Paz: Yeah that western store, what, what's concerning is the ADA when we get into the design because it's elevated. The store's high and the street's low and so just getting the, the slopes on the sidewalk is going to be a challenge and that's why we thought of scooting in the narrower lanes and, and narrowing up the roadway section to give us room for ramps and stuff like that. The corner of Picacho as we add that additional lane and Valley Drive we believe will fit within the right-of-way that's there.

Curry: Is there a particular rendition of this that's looking like to the most popular right now? Do you have a kind of feel for which is ...
Kartchner: Well the section that's on your screen now is what we recommended.

Curry: So which one is this one, A, B, C, D, E, what of your ...

Kartchner: G.

Curry: G, okay, okay.

Kartchner: Yes ma'am.

Curry: And that's barring the new addition of this Amador Proximo.

Kartchner: Yes, ma'am.

Curry: Okay, so is the Amador Proximo going to slow down this process? How much time do you have to give them to kind of figure out if Amador Proximo's going to add another rendition here to this?

Kartchner: I don't know how much time that's going to, to take at this point. We're waiting for that direction from the City and the NMDOT as to how they would like to proceed, if they want to pursue it as a viable alternative or if they want us to study it in more detail but we believe there's ways that we can condense the design schedule and still meet the 2017 construction schedule.

Curry: So is there an expectation from the BPAC that we need to wait to hear from the Amador Proximo to see what their thought of it is, or that you just want a, a, a recommendation from us now or ...

Paz: I, I think it'd be helpful if you chimed in.

Curry: To which?

Paz: To whatever you like. I mean I think right now the, the way I'm looking at it is the Amador Proximo, if we carry that from Hadley all the way to Avenida de Mesilla we're adding about $4 million, just real rough numbers. So now the DOT's like, "Okay City pony up some money." But the City's saying, "Well, we're going to take the maintenance over forever." So there's some haggling that's got to happen and that, that road transfer has to occur legally, it has to be beneficial to both parties so that's going to be where the, where the negotiations occur. And so we're kind of like looking for a, a consensus amongst those if, if they're truly wanting to move forward on that. I think the schedule is one thing, it's the cost, and then there's what are the tradeoffs for both, for both sides? Why, put the benefits for the DOT and the benefits for the City in this presentation. There are clear benefits for both sides but it's, it, it added another element of, "Wait a
minute. That's outside of our budget." And so we can phase it. We, we've come up with some ideas on how to kind of build the outside and, and leave a little bit of the inside left undone for a future phase by the City once they own it, if, if the City would like to pursue it within the funding that's available so there's a way to phase it. It just means that those property owners have to be disrupted twice when the second phase goes to construction. So those are elements that the two parties really have to get together and, and give us direction. You know there's, but your, your voice, your, your input in, in how this is, based on your input to date this is what we came up with, the protected or the separated bike lane with the wider, the parkway, this is what was kind of hashed out through our study but if you, if you're looking at the other alternative, voice it. You know ...

Curry: Well you know my thought just as a BPAC member is just, you know I don't want to say, "Yay! This is awesome!" which yay this is awesome, but at the same time I mean don't want to have Amador Proximo come and present to us in six months' time and go, "We've got this new idea," but then it's like, "Let's rip out what you guys have just done and do it this way." I mean it seems like that happens all too often here already and so ...

Pearson: There's not any money to rip out anything. This is a one-shot deal.

Curry: Well but it, then that's, then, then that's the thing is I kind of feel like maybe we need, I'm not, I, I really appreciate that you've you know given us their, their drawings and things like that as well and, and filled us in but you know to some degree I feel like, I mean I think ultimately this is probably you know the direction that I would voice a, a vote for personally but you know kind of also feel like maybe it's good for us to just hear from the Amador Proximo people and meet with them or something and just hear what, what their side is you know as, so that we can give one sort of official, "Yeah we've heard everybody's side," so that they don't come along and say, "Well you didn't really hear from us and you went ahead and approved, you know approved the other one." I don't know.

Pearson: This project is its own project so you're actually, you're accepting the input from the Amador Proximo process is really what's happening so you're, you're working with this to decide on what the actual project will be.

Kartchner: Correct.

Pearson: Right.

Kartchner: Correct, yeah and ...
Pearson: So any opinions we have on whether it should be G or Amador Proximo we should be making right now to you, to, for you to listen to.

Kartchner: Sure.

Paz: That would be, that would be, that would be very appropriate, yeah.

Bencomo: Mr. Chair.

Pearson: Yeah, Andrew.

Bencomo: Quick, quick, for my, for my clarification, so the Amador Proximo would only affect Hadley to Amador, correct? Or, be, because Picacho could not, I mean from Hadley to Picacho could not handle the through lanes and the side ...

Kartchner: Yes.

Bencomo: Access roads ...

Kartchner: Yes, sir.

Bencomo: And all that so ...

Kartchner: Correct.

Nunez: It’s really just going to affect that section of it.

Kartchner: Yes, sir.

Bencomo: And the rest of it would still be the recommendation of this so far.

Kartchner: Similar to this, yes.

Bencomo: So far.

Kartchner: As we get closer to Picacho some of these things may, some of these elements may have to go away just based, based on the right-of-way.

Bencomo: Okay.

Kartchner: So we would start with the parkway and then if we needed to we would take out the, the buffer between the bike lane and the driving lane but the parkway would be the, the first thing that we would take away.

Bencomo: Okay.
Herrera: Mr. Chair.

Pearson: Jolene.

Herrera: I might be slightly biased but going along with what Ashleigh said, if we don't want roads piecemealed together I don't think it's really maybe appropriate to do half of Valley Drive one way with the Amador Proximo and then the rest of it a different way so I like typical Section G and that would be my recommendation.

Pearson: Go ahead. Okay. Jamie do you want to say something?

Lakey: Well actually I, I like this one that's on the screen right now a lot better than the other one.

Pearson: Okay.

Curry: I would say that I like G as well if you want my vote.

Pearson: Okay.

Curry: And, and again from seeing what I know about the Amador Proximo this seems like it's a more appropriate fit for the road.

Pearson: Okay, the main comments that I had have already been addressed. We talked about traffic counts. You only counted vehicles though. You didn't do a pedestrian/bicycle count of any kind?

Kartchner: No. I don't believe we did.

Pearson: Okay because that's, I guess that's unfortunate since there are a fair, well anecdotally we see a lot of bicycles on there so it would've been nice to, if there would've been some actual numbers on that but, the speed limit currently on part of the project is 45 miles an hour. I thought I had heard that they were going to reduce that on the entire project. Is that true or not?

Kartchner: I don't think a decision has been made on that at this point. I would like to reduce the speed limit personally but we've got to make sure that it, it meets all the criteria in order to do that.

Pearson: Right, because it started as a truck bypass and now it's been, become much more urbanized.

Kartchner: Correct.
Pearson: So it's really much more of a city roadway than a highway.

Kartchner: Yes, sir. It is, and that, that would be a reason to decrease the speed and then just safety along the corridor. The traveling speed along the corridor is somewhere around 38 miles an hour and so people already aren't driving 45 for the most part. I mean there's always somebody that's driving 60 but.

Pearson: The Hadley intersection you talked about some and that seems like it's a, a real problem intersection and also there's a lack of sidewalks along part, part of that that and I don't know that might be, have you checked with, I don't know how much of that design is part of your responsibility or if the City needs to step in cause especially on the southeast corner where there's that mobile home, or former mobile home, whatever it is now there's a metal fence that goes all the way up to the roadway which looks like it should be, looks like it's encroaching on the City right-of-way where a sidewalk belongs.

Curry: I, are you talking about on Hadley though as opposed to on Valley?

Pearson: On Hadley.

Curry: Are they looking at that, of the side streets as well?

Kartchner: We, we are not looking at the side streets. We would look at them right around the intersection to make improvements to the intersection itself so if that's within the intersection which I believe it probably ...

Pearson: It should be.

Kartchner: Is, we would figure out a way to, to make that work. I know there's lots of encroachments going on along Valley Drive. I mean there's car dealers parked out there, there's businesses ...

Pearson: Right. You can tell that ...

Kartchner: That are using it for ...

Pearson: The car dealers ...

Kartchner: Parking lots and it's ...

Pearson: Love that big wide boulevard there.

Kartchner: Yeah.
Pearson: The drainage facility cause they park out all, all the time but that's clearly in the right-of-way. But this, yeah the Hadley intersection is clearly a problem. You specified 12-foot driving lanes on your typical cross-sections, maybe 11-foot on the left-hand lane and a little bit wider on the right-hand lane depending on what you end up with for the final. Maybe you're, as you get from Hadley to Picacho that might be a consideration, to try to get more room to the bicyclists.

Kartchner: Okay. One of the reasons, just so you know we left with kind of the wider lanes is there's, there's the mobile home sales that are along the corridor and so they bring in those really wide homes. It's a lot of farm traffic along Valley Drive still and then there's a pretty high percentage of truck traffic along Valley Drive so by, right now since there is no curb and gutter they can kind of get on the shoulder and drive the tractors especially and so that was kind of the, the thought in our heads when we laid these out, was we need to maintain as much room as possible but as we approach Picacho I, I think that's a good idea.

Pearson: And on your public participation this was clearly a new approach in this end of the state. Is that a new approach statewide or is, they tried project, things like this in other parts of the state?

Kartchner: As far as I know it is the first project that the NMDOT has done in this format.

Pearson: Okay.

Kartchner: I know we were kind of the guinea pigs so ...

Pearson: Okay. Cause I was ...

Kartchner: Trial by fire.

Pearson: I was going to ask about the participation and Jerry answered that with 250 people participating. I assume you did some web counts and things to try to figure out ...

Kartchner: Yes, sir. We could tell how many people were viewing the, the webcast and then based on the number of calls they, CLC Channel 20 said there's an estimation of the number of viewers.

Pearson: Okay.

Kartchner: And then we can also go to Facebook and see how many viewers there are there. Our website also counts the, the traffic that's on the website
and the different IP addresses so it's not just me going to make sure that the ...

Pearson: And ...

Kartchner: Guy put something on the website.

Pearson: Having the meetings, the video on the web has helpful, I used that myself, myself as your meeting actually conflicted with an NMDOT, the long-range transportation plan meeting and so I was able to come to your meeting, mostly during the question and answer period and then I found out that I really didn't miss much.

Kartchner: Yeah.

Pearson: And it really filled in things.

Kartchner: Yeah that was our, kind of our goal was to, I mean we do these meetings and we do all this time but if you're not there you miss it and you don't have any chance of hearing that information and so we found that when the City has meetings and they talk about our website that our traffic on our website goes up. We also find that our views of the YouTube videos of the meetings go up as well and then we can see that directly with our, our comments. There's times that we can see a spike in our comments that we get.

Pearson: Okay. And of course with the bicycle facilities, the conflict points are the intersections so I'm sure your, whichever cross-section you end up with the intersections you'll have to take special care with as to whether there's a right turn lane, bicycle lane going straight through, or whatever so ...

Kartchner: Correct, yeah.

Pearson: I, I think it's too early to see those designs yet but I would hope that we can see those at some point.

Kartchner: Okay. We have them preliminarily laid out. It's basically your standard, the bike lane continues through and then there's the right lane is added to the right side ...

Pearson: Okay.

Kartchner: Of the bicycle lane standard to what you …
Pearson: Are they, probably, some of the intersections like off of Amador or Avenida de Mesilla I don't know that you have the right-of-way for that treatment going eastbound.

Kartchner: We did, I think.

Pearson: Okay good.

Kartchner: We could ...

Paz: We, and it, and it will follow the federal highway guidelines for, for the facility.

Pearson: Right, yeah so it should be obvious to however, if you have to take the lane or if you have a separate bike lane.

Paz: And, and just that, that federal guideline is a kind of a minimum standards nationwide.

Pearson: Right.

Paz: So that any, when you see bike lanes in Colorado they should look very similar to here.

Pearson: Right. Yeah that's MUTCD and such and FHWA and Federal Highway System did just come out with some protected bike lane guidelines. I guess I, if I had my choice I would love to see protected bike lanes along Valley with appropriate treatment at the intersections so I think I would favor more of the ideas presented by the Amador Proximo. Of the other cross-sections that you showed, G is clearly the, the preferred.

Kartchner: Okay.

Curry: I have, I have one last, is this thing, there you go. Sorry. I have just one last comment or suggestion. There's a school crossing at Hadley. There are a lot of kids that come from a neighborhood that's on the west side and they cross over at that intersection and I'd just like to see you know if in those plans, and I know this is a really tiny little detail but if there's the radar feedback "Your Speed Is" flashing thing, we've done that in other areas and found it to be incredibly effective to have that, so if it could be noted that that could go into the plans to have the school zone, and I don't know if that's even within what you're doing but if we could have that radar feedback I know that it's really a big problem with the crossing guards there with those cars going really fast while the kids are coming back and forth to school.
Kartchner: Okay, yeah.

Curry: So that would be a really awesome adduction.

Kartchner: Okay. We can ...

Pearson: It can be as many as 200 students during some of the events so.

Curry: Yeah. We have, we have a Safe Routes to School, a meeting location that's behind the SaveMart and they all cross over at that intersection and that's a weekly event and then on the big, the big special event days as George said there can be a, a huge number and bicycles and things like that so just some additional protection for the school would be really awesome.

Kartchner: Okay.

Curry: Thank you.

Pearson: Well thank you for coming and I think we'll go on to our next item so we have time for them.

Kartchner: Okay. Thank you all.

Pearson: And please keep us informed.

6.2 Presentation on the University Avenue Study Corridor

Wray: Thank you Mr. Chair. I would like to now present Denise Weston from Bohannan Huston who's going to discuss the University Boulevard corridor study.

Denise Weston gave her presentation.

Wray: Yes.

Weston: Yes. So and then we'll go back out to the public in the fall. So with that I'll take questions but I'd like to go back and kind of sit on these two alternatives if that's helpful to you and that is why I gave you the handout as well so.

Curry: Thank you. I've got, jumping with questions. No, I, no I, I just wanted to ask of those six people were any of them cyclists that showed up to the meeting?
Weston: I don't know that any of them clearly identified themselves as cyclists. No, I can't say that.

Curry: Oh, okay.

Weston: They, they weren't wearing cycling clothing so.

Curry: Cause to me, to me those B and C options are the least biker friendly of all of them but I'm just wondering, I mean first of all the question is I mean I think this is just getting a general idea and then if this project does get funded down the road we're not really tied into these renditions. Is that true or are we somewhat tied into, you guys made these choices so this is what you get?

Weston: Well I think at this phase of the project you're never tied in concretely but I certainly think that aligning with the input received at this point of the project in going forward will make everything move more efficiently and effectively. Jolene do you, yeah.

Curry: Okay.

Weston: So ...

Curry: So, so you know my thought would be, I mean even just a little bit of, of wiggling with what you have I mean I'm looking at I mean I, I get what they're saying in the neighborhood of "Let's just get something so that we have nothing," but you know again, not coming back with ...

Weston: And I might have simplified that too okay.

Curry: No, no, no, I, I, I'm, and I am too. But to just, you know coming back in ten years' time going, "Gosh wouldn't it nice if we had bike lanes? Let's see how we can you know do this, down the road." Let's do it once and do it well would, you know would be what I would push for. But I mean I'm looking at Section C. Could we, you know we've got seven feet worth of buffer. Can we make it 51.5 feet and even just put four foot for shoulders that could be used as bike lanes for example, so that we, I mean I know that ideally we'd have five-foot bike lanes but can we go a foot, at least something that we don't even have to call it a bike lane but we could call it a shoulder, I mean if we're really limited on space okay.

Weston: Absolutely. And I ...

Curry: Something along those lines.
Weston: And in some places we could give you the five feet. It's just a matter of understanding and signing it well enough that people understand at some locations they may have to do a little bit of this.

Curry: A little bit of pinching in and out. Absolutely. You know and I would say the same if you're looking at the Cadillac version, Section F. Yeah, 65.5 may be really optimistic in many locations. Can we take out the five-foot you know or the seven-foot worth of buffer if you have five-foot bike lanes? Can you take out some of the buffer and make that then something more manageable in the 53 range?

Weston: As long as we maintain that vertical barrier and if everyone's comfortable and they understand that you're going to have a curb there.

Curry: Right.

Weston: Then we can pinch down that buffer. Absolutely.

Curry: And I'm just trying to think I mean I, I, I understand the value of buffers for sure but at the same time we don't necessarily have the luxury of space that we do on Valley.

Weston: Right.

Curry: So you know the other thought and I'm sure you did a, a fabulous job, I'm sorry I wasn't at the meeting, I was out of town but I'd be happy to try to get more people, that's my neighborhood. I'd be more than happy to try to get more than six people to show up to a meeting and so if there's another opportunity to do that and I'm just thinking there's so many people, there's not a possibility to be in that neighborhood at any time of day or night and not find walkers out walking dogs and things. So is it possible even just to get a yard sign type of thing and say "meeting about you know putting pedestrian and bike facilities on University Avenue" I mean is it possible to stick a sign in ...

Weston: Yes. Absolutely. And we did.

Curry: In somebody's driveway, you can stick it in mine.

Weston: We did.

Curry: You know, and just say "Show up on this date for this meeting." Cause I think you'd have more interest if you know the, the people ...
Curry: Who are actually out walking and biking see those signs.

Weston: We can do that. We did post a lot of places. We put up a fair amount of flyers but I do think that also it will help when school's in session.

Curry: Yeah.

Weston: And we can actually work through the school system.

Curry: Yeah.

Weston: And get some outreach in that ...

Curry: Yeah.

Weston: Scenario as well.

Curry: Yeah. I mean I think it's all, it's all super exciting but again, you know I'm sorry that only six people turned out in the neighborhood so I mean I feel like we can do better than that. So you know "we" meaning people from the neighborhood.

Weston: It's okay.

Curry: You know.

Weston: I gave up balancing my self-esteem on the number of people that come to public meetings a long time ago so I'm good. So, Jerry don't laugh.

Curry: You know and I, I think so just one more thing and then I will let somebody else have a turn. But I mean my thought is that there are so many pedestrians in that neighborhood that having pedestrian facilities on both sides of the roads would be a priority for, in my thought because I don't, I wouldn't want to only have it on the south side because then we are excluding Zia and the pedestrian access to Zia but at the same time if you only have it on the north side you're creating a situation where people will have to be crossing and I think you'll have a lot of people walking their dogs and crossing over to the north side from Mesilla Park and creating more of a hazard on the road with pedestrians trying to access the multiuse path.

Weston: Yes, we have talked about that and that is exactly one of the concerns with that and if we did just have pedestrians on one side we would have to have some very strategically located crossings where we funneled people to go across the roadway so.
Curry: Yeah. Okay. Thank you very much.

Weston: Thank you.

Pearson: Go ahead.

Nunez: You just addressed something about the both sides but here I, I've worked with a bunch of bosses for years giving them all of you guys' ideas and everything else but when I give them this many options they get confused so, and this is just a suggestion or actually maybe it confused me. The, the point I guess I, to get to the point is my real question is, can you look at the roadway, do you know if there's an existing storm through there or is it all surface drain? Do you guys know?

Weston: It's all surface.

Nunez: Okay, surface. So when I looked at the section my first gut was that I did like Section D but I thought to myself that you could drain off to the one side without the vertical difference. In other words surface drain, no curb on the one side to the left of this drawing.

Weston: Are you, did you say D or B?

Nunez: D as in dog.

Weston: D, okay. Thank you.

Nunez: But that was my first preference but now in looking back here to circle in again is that it would be nice to know if you're actually going to have some additional right-of-way, if you are going to have it from the EBID so that kind of narrows your options too, right.

Weston: It does. Absolutely.

Nunez: So if you can answer that quickly or it ...

Weston: We can't answer that quickly because like ...

Nunez: Cause of the EBID.

Weston: We're way at the beginning ...

Nunez: Oh, okay. Got you.

Weston: Of this project but I think that what we can do to allow for that opportunity, as we finish this report we can have two, I mean easily two or three
options still on the table and one of them can be "If we get EBID right-of-way this is the, the option that, that we would recommend. If we don't get EBID right-of-way this is the option we will carry forward." And that gives everybody in the room and all the agencies at the table the opportunity to take it to the next phase without missing that.

Nunez:  You jumped to where I was headed so ...

Weston:  Okay. Sorry.

Nunez:  And, and that's good because, still my point is, is that well if you're going to have the narrow width, if, if you're not then you are back to these designs and then, then B becomes more of an option with where I see you have ...

Weston:  Right.

Nunez:  The 40-foot right-of-way and again I do like if, if you are going to have the 40-foot and then the one side maybe you can have sort of one drain and if you can raise the people, the pedestrians and the bicycles it would be safer so that's why I like Option B if that's the case, even though it doesn't address your wanting people on, on both sides or ability to have a, a path on both sides that's raised. So any rate, yeah you, with the design phase and where you're this is, I, I see what you're dealing with.

Weston:  And it's really important that when we have to make severe cuts and have very limited facilities that we know what your priorities are. It's a lot easier for us if we get the EBID right-of-way and we can offer you more options, you know so.

Nunez:  All right. Thanks.

Bencomo:  Mr. Chair. So on going back to the, I mean you don't have to flip back there but to the graph, the, the map where you showed the right-of-way widths and all that. Those are best case scenarios if you get everything you want or is that like without EBID ...

Weston:  That's without EBID. That's existing right-of-way.

Bencomo:  Okay. So let's say best case scenario, you've got everything you need from EBID and everybody else is cooperative and we all sing Kum Ba Ya, what is the narrowest point on that roadway going to be?

Weston:  I'm not sure I can answer that. Tandy can you answer that?

Freel:  SPEAKING BUT NOT AT THE MICROPHONE.
Weston: Because even in some locations it's still 40 feet, right? Yeah.

Bencomo: Best case scenario, everybody cooperates.

Weston: Because, yeah.

Bencomo: Forty-feet.

Weston: Cause on that western edge there by Mesilla it's 40 feet cause it's all privately owned, yeah.

Bencomo: No, not what, when I said ...

Weston: But I mean that doesn't mean you can't ...

Bencomo: When I said best case scenario I mean everybody cooperates and gives up what they need to give up so we're still going to be, at some point our maximum will be 40 feet.

Weston: Unless they ...

Bencomo: In some areas.

Weston: Buy private property. That's an option too. I mean they can actually buy private property but that's not what you're talking about. You're talking about EBID, using the EBID so.

Bencomo: I'm talking about EBID, anybody else that's affected there else, Las Cruces Public Schools has a school there. I, I'm just curious cause we're looking at a section here like says 50.5 feet but if 40's going to be the max then we're going to have to make those adjustments in there.

Weston: Except we have discussed with the project team and with the agencies involved on this particular corridor that we're probably going to have multiple typical sections so that we can take advantage of that wider width in certain locations.

Bencomo: Okay.

Weston: So we're not proposing and, and we can do it but we're not actually proposing one own, you know just one specific typical section.

Bencomo: So it would adjust with the size, okay.

Weston: Exactly.
Bencomo: Okay. And then so I, I think it's important, I think it's really important in some way to have some kind of multiuse path on here and part of the reason I say that is because that is the, that is a connecting loop for the loop around the city. When we ride it or run it we do Triviz, University, and then you're kind of making your way along Valley and Main and crossing and then hoping nobody gets too close to you in a car and then when you get to Mesilla you kind of do Calle Norte which also needs work, hopefully we'll get that in the future, down to La Llorona and so that is a good connecting piece.

Weston: Okay.

Bencomo: And so I, I love, I like the multiuse path look whether it has a sidewalk next to it or not. I, I, I like the way that works. And then I'll, also I think whatever option is chosen if there could be that vertical raised ...

Weston: Okay.

Bencomo: Protection because once again I go back to what I said earlier, people looking at their phones, looking at things in their car, drifting off the road. It's just not, it's not good. There needs to be some raised protection for bicyclists or pedestrians but of course I do understand the more competitive bicyclists who are going to probably want to be on the roadway to do those type of things so. And then just a comment; your idea of the ditch and using those for multiuse paths, I think that's where we need to go in the future but that's just my comments for generally speaking the entire city pedestrian and bicycle, I mean their ditches are everywhere in the City and outside the city in the county and are perfect I think connections for all this so, but that's beyond what you're doing so thank you.

Weston: Well, no it's important actually. That's really helpful input so we can keep pushing that forward as well.

Bencomo: Thank you.

Herrera: Mr. Chair. I would say that definitely the multiuse trail aspect of it is going to be important cause, Denise I think you said that you know even if we don't pick a typical section out of here, if we identify the elements that are important ...

Weston: Right. Exactly.

Herrera: Well I think multiuse trail is probably good because if you think about some of the users of that area, a lot of them are children and so if there's a
child on a bike you probably want at least some separation from theoadway so that they can feel safer, so parents will feel safer. I think that
that's a really important element however we can fit that in.

Weston: Thank you.

Pearson: Okay. Any other Committee members?

Casillas: Well my comments was just that EBID’s a really important, they're going to
be an important player on this one so hopefully they're, they're on board
with this project and we can get that extra right-of-way. Just a comment.

Pearson: Okay. So if EBID right-of-way means burying the ditch, right?

Weston: It does, yes.

Pearson: Okay. So they're ...

Weston: And they were okay with that. It's just we're going to end up being a cost
issue.

Pearson: Okay.

Weston: And there are some elevation concerns obviously but things that we can
work around.

Pearson: Okay. Yeah, the, the B and C selections, I guess I'll just flat-out say I hate
them.

Weston: Okay.

Pearson: I think it's really a need that we have in-road bicycle facilities even if it's a
four-foot shoulder.

Weston: Okay.

Pearson: Right now there's a six-inch shoulder there and I have to use that
roadway. I use that in order to come to this facility. I actually used it
coming here today. Every week when I go help with Safe Routes to
School in Mesilla I use that roadway to get to my place of work so while I,
so Section D is the one that I would mostly look at and where possible
Section F because I also agree with multiuse. It is in that corridor that's
been identified for the loop trail. I do, I would love you to have in the plan
that we need to move that loop trail to an outer location.

Weston: Oh.
Pearson: The ...

Curry: What is that? What's the loop trail?

Pearson: La Llorona ...

Curry: Oh yeah, yeah.

Pearson: All Triviz and it's currently identified come all the way down University. NMDOT's looking at it some point putting Triviz underneath University and that's in the next five years?

Herrera: That's in the next five years, yes.

Pearson: So there's an opportunity to extend the Triviz trail through the university and come out someplace on the other side of the university.

Weston: So further south.

Pearson: And then come south someplace there.

Weston: Okay.

Pearson: And that would allow us to have a true multiuse trail in that location because it's not, University Avenue itself in the city limits, probably not going to be able to fit a multiuse trail on there.

Weston: Right, okay.

Pearson: It'd be, I think we'll be lucky if we get four-foot bicycle lanes and reduce the speed limit to 25 miles an hour sometime in the next 20 years.

Curry: But the, the, the thought is I mean just sort of imagining things it's possible that we could come down somewhere through University/Union and then even along Main Street there's quite a lot of right of, there's quite a lot of right-of-way I would think south of University on Main Street that could then connect the multiuse trail along this corridor that we're talking about.

Pearson: I think that's something this Committee needs to look at as part of the trail priority plan and identify a corridor that can be used cause I think there is an EBID drainage facility that can be easily used. You had a map that identified something.

Weston: Right.
Pearson: So I'd love that that be incorporated into the plan as a possibility.

Weston: Okay.

Pearson: And that we have in-road bicycle facilities and use the multiuse where we have the capability so on Section D you show as a sidewalk, maybe have an eight-foot sidewalk there instead of the buffer and, and expand that where possible.

Curry: Then you're basically looking at Section E.

Pearson: No.

Curry: No.

Pearson: Cause there's only one way ...

Weston: Section ...

Pearson: Section E only has one way bicycle facility.

Weston: Right.

Pearson: Needs to have two-way bicycle facility.

Weston: And Section D.

Pearson: And section D and F.

Weston: Could, yeah.

Pearson: So that's my thoughts.

Weston: Okay. Great.

Pearson: Oh and on the public input, I had kind of heard about the meeting. I think it was Councilor Pedroza mentioned it at City Council but I couldn't find any details about it so I didn't attend. I looked at the City website, couldn't find anything so, and I didn't get a press release so I don't know how that, I don't know how your press releases worked so ...

Weston: Okay.

Pearson: Something, some, some improvement there is needed. Otherwise I would've been number seven.
Weston: In your bicycle clothes.

Pearson: I am in my bicycle clothes.

Wray: Mr. Chair. We did have it on the MPO portion of the website.

Pearson: Okay, well I missed that.

Weston: It was on the Town of Mesilla's website as well.

Pearson: Yeah and I think I, I tried to do a search.

Weston: But you know it, it happens.

Pearson: Yeah.

Weston: It totally happens, we'll just ...

Pearson: I think I tried to do a search on the City website and didn't pick the right keyword.

Weston: Right, so.

Herrera: Mr. Chair. I believe our PIO, our District One PIO also sent it out.

Weston: She did.

Herrera: Too.

Pearson: Yeah, I think there is the issue that the MPO doesn't, is no longer able to forward NMDOT ...

Wray: That's correct.

Pearson: So that's probably why I missed it. Any other comments?

Weston: Any other questions?

Pearson: No. Thank you.

Weston: Thank you.

Pearson: I think that was very informative and looking forward to that.
7. COMMITTEE AND STAFF COMMENTS

7.1 MPO Staff update: SRTP update, Missouri Study Corridor update

Pearson: So now we have ten minutes.

Wray: Mr. Chair. Just for logistical purposes I’m going to do the staff update slightly out of order. Bohannan Huston is the, regarding the Missouri study corridor project Bohannan Huston is also the consultant on that. We have identified August 6th as a staff working group or project group kickoff meeting. We'll be having our first public meeting regarding the Missouri project sometime in the not too distant future beyond that date. We don't have any specifics at this time.

Pearson: Okay. Just remind me, is that extending Missouri up to Sonoma Ranch?

Wray: We're looking at all available options, all the way from give up all ambition of extending it to all the way out to Sonoma Ranch.

Pearson: But that's the, that's the area of the study.

Wray: Yes. That's the area of the study but all, I, I'm, I'm emphasizing to everyone all options are on the table. We're not committed to any one particular outcome. With that I'm going to turn it over to Mr. Michael McAdams to give a brief update about the short-range transit plan update.

Michael McAdams began his presentation.

Pearson: So just to clarify this is transit, RoadRUNNER transit.

McAdams: This is the, this is the, yes. This is the RoadRUNNER. This is the short range, it's not dealing with the RTD, only the RoadRUNNER.

Michael McAdams gave his presentation.

Pearson: Looks like we're happy.

McAdams: Okay. Thank you.

Wray: And one final MPO staff note and this is a very happy one but the Policy Committee approved the MTP at their most recent meeting and we have the copies bound and ready to be handed out so come see me when the meeting is done and you'll get your copy. We have one for, for everyone. At this time I guess we're ready to turn it over to the local project updates.
7.2 Local Projects update

Pearson: Okay. We'll start at the end. County.

Casillas: I have Robert Armijo here from Engineering. If you guys have any questions about the Baylor Canyon Road and Dripping Springs Road or want to (inaudible) Board of County Commissioners this is the man to talk to right now. What happened there was a, so Baylor Canyon didn't get accepted. Dripping Springs did.

Armijo: Mr. Chair can I clarify that?

Pearson: Yes.

Armijo: Excuse me. Good evening Mr. Chair, Committee Members. Robert Armijo, County Engineer for Dona Ana County. Quick update on the Baylor Canyon/Dripping Springs project. As you may be aware the Board of County Commissioners accepted Alternative B from the environmental assessment that was conducted by BLM and FHWA and the, the Alternate B project includes paving of Dripping Springs Road but not paving Baylor Canyon Road. Baylor Canyon Road will still be brought up to basically base course so the full design will happen but it's not going to be paved so wanted to ...

Pearson: For the extent that the project was designed to wherever that private section is, whatever the length was originally proposed that would've been graded there.

Armijo: Correct. Yeah the, the original, well Alternative A would have included paving of Baylor Canyon/Dripping Springs Road beginning at the end of pavement on Dripping Springs Road to the beginning of pavement on Baylor Canyon Road if that makes sense, so the whole corridor would've been paved but they chose Alternative B which includes not paving Baylor Canyon Road.

And another, just a quick update on flat projects, we are also going to be submitting an application to FHWA for the Soledad Canyon Road project and that would include bike lanes and the whole corridor project through there so, of course no guarantees that we will get the project but we're, we're ...

Pearson: Right. That's kind of where I was going to ask ...

Armijo: We're hoping.
Pearson: If with the alternatives for Baylor Canyon/Dripping Springs that's going to be less money so maybe more money available or is that the way since the federal lands highway works, that's just too bad.

Armijo: Yeah. According to Tom Pudo from FHWA it doesn't work that way. It goes back and then you know they can reuse it, put it back into a pool you know but you never know with Congress.

Pearson: Well we can apply because of that facility at the top of Soledad Canyon is a federal facility. Is that true?

Armijo: That is correct Mr. Chair.

Pearson: Okay. So that's the County's intent to try to get some of those monies?

Armijo: Correct.

Pearson: Okay. Good.

Armijo: Okay.

Herrera: Mr. Chair.

Pearson: Yes.

Herrera: I had a question. Didn't the County receive some funding through capital outlay for Soledad Canyon as well?

Armijo: Right. We used that funding for the corridor study ...

Herrera: Okay.

Armijo: For the roadway. Bohannan Huston is the one that conducted that and they, we had several meetings about that and so the, I believe I also talked to you, you fine folks here about that project so we're going to be moving forward with those recommendations on that flat project.

Herrera: Okay. And I thought I saw that you got some funding this year, maybe I'm mistaken for Soledad Canyon as well through capital outlay.

Armijo: I, there may have been some additional funding. I'd have to double-check but it's nowhere near enough to complete the whole project. I think it was just a couple of hundred thousand dollars if that.

Herrera: Yeah. That's ...
Armijo: I'd have to ...
Herrera: Why I was curious about ...
Armijo: Right.
Herrera: What, what it's for.
Armijo: Right. I, I'd have to verify that and we could possibly use that as a match or, so I'll have to take a look at that and verify the numbers.
Herrera: Okay. Thank you.
Armijo: Anything else?
Pearson: Thank you.
Armijo: Thank you all very much.
Pearson: That was very informative.
Herrera: Actually Mr. Chair. Can we ask the County for an update on the Dona Ana School/Camino Real intersection?
Armijo: Gosh, I can't give you an update right now at this time Mr. Chair, ma'am. I know we're stuck with, with right-of-way issues and there was another issue that came up but I can ask Mr. Molina, Rene Molina's the project manager for that to ...
Herrera: Okay.
Armijo: Attend your next meeting and give you an update on that but ...
Herrera: Okay.
Armijo: But we are moving forward with it, it's going slowly because of the issues that we've run into.
Herrera: Okay.
Armijo: Okay?
Herrera: No that's fine. If I know that Rene's the project manager I can just ...
Armijo: Okay.
Herrera: Contact him. Thank you.

Armijo: Sure.

Curry: Actually while we're on that topic do you mind if I just ask, in that project, the Dona Ana School Road project are there any proposals for pedestrian or bike facilities at that, in that area? I know that it's a big concern for Dona Ana Elementary School.

Armijo: No ma'am. There, there are no, other than the, the roadway itself there are no additional facilities for pedestrian/bicyclists.

Curry: Okay. Thank you.

Armijo: Okay. Thank you.

Pearson: Anything else?

Armijo: Thank you very much.

Pearson: Thank you.

Curry: Oh, is it raining?

Wray: I do believe it is.

Pearson: So now we have to wait here till 8:00 before we can leave.

Wray: I, I'll leave.

Pearson: Well some of us were brave on our bicycles.

Wray: Thunder too.

Pearson: City do you have, or do you have some more from the County or no?

Nunez: Yes, I've got a long list here, let's see if we can get through this, various phases, we have some things in design and construction. Let me start out with what you had asked for in an e-mail Mr. Chair. You had asked about the, the La Llorona project and the Las Cruces Dam path.

Pearson: Yes.

Nunez: So, those are going well. The La Llorona is, the pre-construction meeting was, is tomorrow and it's, should start around August 3rd.

Nunez: And then the, that is, let's see that, extends the pervious concrete right to the, I think it's the Las Cruces outfall channel.

Pearson: Yes.

Nunez: And then the other one is the Las Cruces Dam. The design is complete and it should start in the winter of 2015, somewhere around 3.2 miles. When I asked the project manager if that was a 5k, he said no. It's various paths branched out, I guess. I haven't seen the designs. And then let's see ...

Pearson: So that's on the east side of the dam, is that right?

Nunez: Yes. We have a pavement replacement on Roadrunner Parkway from Santa Domingo to Tiffany. We've done some of that and that's by Veterans' Park up there, the, we're doing, we did some sidewalk ADA improvements. And then we are waiting for material on the midblock crossing there at the Veterans' Park, it should be done in a couple months.

Pearson: But you're not moving any curb and, curb and gutter on Roadrunner. It's still the same roadway width. Is that true?

Nunez: I believe what I heard the project manager tell me was is that we did improve some of the sidewalk while we did the roadway there.

Pearson: Cause, yeah the concern, Roadrunner's high speed and tougher bicyclists so ...

Nunez: Right.

Pearson: If they're, if we can increase, if there's any chance to change that I think long-term there was talk about narrowing the medians and offering the bicycle lane but I think that's a major construction project rather than, I think what you're doing now is just a, or a resurfacing or a preservation project.

Nunez: That's right. That's right. I will wrote, write that down and ask him. Then the other is, let's see here Elks Drive where we have that in design and I mentioned this last time, we will have a four-foot, no six-foot-wide bike lines there so now we're extending that down to Reina and Hatfield kind of by the, Engler. So we'll have two lanes in each direction, north and south plus the bike lanes. Then I have Cutler Overlay, El Paseo by Las Cruces High School. I heard that we have these new HAWK Midblock signaling which I'm not familiar with. Those things are going to be interesting. They
got yellow flashers and they're going to be red flashing so those are going
up here within the month I believe is ...

Curry: They're up.

Nunez: They, are they up, but are they actually working?

Curry: I don't know that, I don't know that they're working but their actual, the
poles and the lights are in. I don't know if they're connected.

Nunez: And we'll probably have more of those in the community here so just see
how those operate, maybe potentially on University is what I'm thinking in
the near future. Okay and then Locust from Missouri to Rentfrow, I
mentioned that one also. We have the resurfacing there and that already
has, we'll keep what's there, the bike lanes, shared, is, have we, yeah I
believe you said it was a shared lane or do you, it's pretty wide through
there.

Pearson: No Locust is a bike lane ...

Nunez: Bike lane.

Pearson: To Missouri. From University to Missouri.

Nunez: Right.

Pearson: There's a bike lane there.

Nunez: Okay. Then, let's see my other sheet here. Out for bid is Sixth Street,
that's going from Parker north and that's a, we're doing ADA ramps and
pedestrian improvements there. In design is West Hadley, Alameda to
Water. This will be a full recon, ramps, roadway. We are in construction
on Amador ADA, McSwain to Archuleta, improvement both sides, broken
concrete, sidewalks and drive pads and curb returns. And then we're
almost done with Sonoma Ranch by new, a new safety complex Camino
Coyote. We've put, we're putting in the other half, the four lanes. So
that's my list. Thanks.

Pearson: Thank you.

7.3 NMDOT Projects update

Pearson: So now I think we're at NMDOT.

Herrera: Mr. Chair. North Main as you all know and everybody already kind of
talked about is behind schedule. We had the end date scheduled for July
15th. That obviously did not happen so the new deadline that we're looking at is the end of September to have everything done. There've been a lot of issues on that project so just bear with us.

Missouri is looking good. It's looking very good. They're moving really quickly on it. The contractor has told us that they intend to be done by the end of this calendar year which is way sooner than their contract runs out so they're moving right along on that one.

Additionally we have the Union and Ramp E bridges, that's going on right now too and I believe, I'm going to have to double-check this so if I'm wrong I'll send you an e-mail but I believe I heard that the end date on that one will also be December in preparation for a pavement preservation project that we'll be doing on I-10 from the Jackrabbit interchange to the I-10/I-25 interchange so that'll take care of some of the pavement now that all the bridges on that section are done.

And then a smaller project that we have is NM478. They're doing a, a maintenance project there but because it is a, a heavily used bike facility they did use the smaller chips to make the road smoother and then they are doing the shoulders as well and I went and drove it on Friday on my way back from El Paso and it looks really good.

Curry: Where, what section is that?

Herrera: It's actually from milepost 0 to 21 so it's, it's the whole road.

Curry: Great,

Herrera: And that's all I have that's under construction now. Are there any questions?

Pearson: I had a question about the long-range transportation plan if you know what's happening there. I saw some, there was public comment or something and I think it was brought up to the State Transportation Commission but they're not actually adopting it or, what can you tell, do you know anything about that?

Herrera: I haven't heard a formal brief on it yet but what I do know is that all of the public comments received were presented to the Commission. They didn't, you know we didn't go one by one over everything but in the package they received every single public comment that, that we received on it. I know that they wanted to look at some of those comments and think about possibly tweaking parts of the plan so it has not been adopted yet but it, it looks like it will be adopted by the Transportation Commission in August.

Pearson: Okay so it still will be adopted by the Transportation Commission, it's ...
Herrera: Yes.

Pearson: Okay that was, that was the part that wasn't clear to me.

Herrera: Oh. Yes. Definitely.

Pearson: Okay. So I guess we're on to final comments for Committee Members. Any Committee Member have a comment in general? Let's see that was my one question. The other question I have I guess is for staff is member attendance. We have one Committee Member that we haven't seen for quite some time. I sent her an e-mail. I didn't hear back from her today but that was just today, but I have had, I've been asked if there's an opening so maybe if staff can ask her if she intends to continue if ...

Wray: I ...

Pearson: If you can get a resignation that might work better than anything else or if at our next meeting maybe we should look at maybe ...

Wray: Staff will proceed. We'll send an e-mail and if, depending on the response there may be an item on next month's agenda but we'll be in consultation with you Mr. Chair about that.

Pearson: Okay, good. If there is a resignation I think we could probably move pretty quickly through the Policy Committee to get a, a replacement.

Wray: We, we would have to do that.

Pearson: But not in time ...

Wray: Depending on the ...

Pearson: For our next meeting.

Wray: Depending on the nature of, of the particular position and I, I don't recall off the top of my head but it is a citizen position of some sort so we would need to do at least a, an open call for applications of some duration ...

Pearson: Yeah. Right.

Wray: Before but ...

Pearson: Yeah. Okay. So our next meeting is August 18th and then the following meeting is October 20th. That one's marked as a TIP one so I guess you will decide at some point.
Wray: We, we normally do hold the October meeting regardless of if ...

Pearson: Okay.

Wray: There are any amendments because ...

Pearson: Okay. Cause that is, it's the last one.

Wray: It is the last one of the year. There is an issue this year and I will mention it now. The, the November Policy Committee meeting is not being held this year because it coincides with Veterans' Day so we will not be processing TIP amendments that particular cycle, and we had the consent of DOT when we did that but staff believes it's still important to have that meeting because it is the last one until January so we fully anticipate being here.

Pearson: Okay. And for our next meeting I had asked Marc South who is the City person that does bicycle things to talk about bicycle friendly community application or the award for bronze. We received a report from the League of American Cyclists so hopefully that can be part of our packet, part of the presentation. And there was also a presentation, a community survey and I'd be particularly interested in the part that relates to bicycle trails and seemed like there was a lot of interest or support from the public for having those types of things so that might fit in. We might need, it might be appropriate for us to decide to reorder the priorities and maybe even try to suggest TAP projects for the different entities since the, the City didn't apply for any of the TAP projects this last cycle.

Wray: I have spoken to Mr. South and he intends to be here so he will be on the agenda. We, he would be the most appropriate person actually to be speaking about the community survey as well so we may have two items with him or just one big City of Las Cruces update. I guess we'll leave that to your ...

Pearson: Okay.

Wray: Discretion in our later conversations setting up the agenda.

Pearson: Okay.

Bencomo: Mr. Chair.

Pearson: Yes.

Bencomo: I, I'm sorry, I was slow when you asked a while ago about questions from Committee Members. So I, I do have a question. We, I had brought it up
earlier and said maybe we need to have a work session. How, how do we go about doing that? Is there a process for that? Can we do that? And I think we need to do that.

Wray: Mr. Chair, Mr. Bencomo. We, there's, there's no particularly formal process per se other than the Committee expressing a desire to have one. I will say that it would be entirely possible to combine a meeting, an on the record meeting that has business, close that meeting, conclude it, and then have the work session immediately afterward. I don't know given the, the, the lateness of the, the meetings of necessity whether that would necessarily be a good idea but the problem that we have run into historically with having work sessions at a different time of day is many of you individuals have jobs and cannot attend so.

Pearson: Right. Yeah, I think the topics that you want to talk about will lead directly into or from the bicycle friendly community discussion so I think, I don't know that we necessarily need a work session then but after we have that discussion I think we can decide where we should go. So I, I don't want to call a work session now but I want, we can think about that for the next meeting as part of that bicycle friendly community discussion because we would like to encourage the City to move forward. Okay. Anybody else?

8. PUBLIC COMMENT - None

9. ADJOURNMENT (7:12 p.m.)

Pearson: I'll listen to a motion to adjourn then.

Curry: I'll make a motion to adjourn.

Herrera: I second.

Pearson: We have a motion and a second. We're adjourned.