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 August 18, 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)
Jamie Lakey (Proxy for Ashleigh Curry)
David Shearer (NMSU - Environmental Safety)
Mark Leisher (DAC Citizen Rep)
Lance Shepan (Town of Mesilla Rep)

MEMBERS ABSENT: Duane Bentley (Bicycle Community Rep)
Karen Rishel (Bicycling Community Bicycle Rep)
Ashleigh Curry (Town of Mesilla Citizen Rep)
Albert Casillas (DAC Rep)
Andrew Bencomo (Pedestrian Community Rep)

STAFF PRESENT: Tom Murphy (MPO)
Andrew Wray (MPO)
Michael McAdams (MPO)

OTHERS PRESENT: Becky Baum, Recording Secretary, RC Creations, LLC
Marc South (City of Las Cruces Community Development)

1. CALL TO ORDER

Pearson: Okay, so we have a quorum so it's 5:01 so I'll call the meeting to order. Let's just go around the table and introduce everybody, all the Committee members, I guess.

Shepan: Lance Shepan, I'm Sergeant with Mesilla Marshal's Office and a School Resource Officer and I'm a member of the Sheriff's Department Bomb Squad.

Pearson: Oh, so you're busy today.

Shepan: I been busy for the last three weeks.

Nunez: James Nunez, City of Las Cruces.

Murphy: Tom Murphy, MPO Officer.
Lakey: I'm Jamie Lakey. I'm with NMSU but I'm sitting in for Ashleigh Curry.

Herrera: All right. Jolene Herrera, NMDOT.

South: I'm Marc South. I'm with Community Development at the City of Las Cruces and I'm just here to present today. I, I vote for nothing.

Shearer: I'm David Shearer with Environmental Health and Safety at NMSU.

Pearson: And George Pearson, the City of Las Cruces Citizen Representative.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Pearson: Next order of business is the approval of the agenda. Do we have any modifications to the agenda?

Murphy: None from staff.

Pearson: Hear a motion to accept the agenda as approved?

Shearer: Well ...

Pearson: Or as presented?

Shearer: We cannot present the presentation cause we have no AV support so Item 5.2 is a no.

Pearson: So you don't have, take that off and ...

Shearer: It's up to you. I mean we can wave our hands but there's no video support. It's a PowerPoint presentation.

Pearson: So, well it's, it's your presentation so if you want to delay it till the next meeting ...

Shearer: We'll delay it till the next (inaudible).

Pearson: Okay. So we'll take off Item 5.2. So I'll hear a motion to accept the agenda with Item 5.2 removed.

Shepan: Motion.

Shearer: I second.
Pearson: From David the second, from, so a motion and a second. All in favor, "aye."

MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY.

Pearson: Any opposed?

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

3.1 July 21, 2015

Pearson: So we're on to approval of the minutes. We have any discussion of the minutes this time? Looked like we had everybody, members present and members absent correct at this time? Correct? So hearing, or do we need a moment to read them? Hearing no discussion, I'll hear a motion to approve the minutes as presented.

Lakey: I'll motion.

Pearson: Jamie motions.

Herrera: Second.

Pearson: Jolene seconds.

Pearson: All in favor, "aye."

MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY.

Pearson: Any opposed?

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

Pearson: So we're on public comment. Any public? No, you're not public comment today. You have to wait for Committee comments.

Lakey: Okay, I'll wait till committee comments.

Pearson: Seeing none.

5. DISCUSSION ITEMS

5.1 City of Las Cruces Bicycle Friendly Community Certification

Pearson: We'll go on to the discussion items. First is 5.1: City of Las Cruces for Bicycle Friendly Community Certification.
South: I guess that's me.

Pearson: There you go.

South: I am still at this moment the Acting Undersecretary for the City of Las Cruces for Bicycle Affairs. We don't plan ...

Pearson: That's not a real title, is it?

South: No, that's not real. Don't know quite how long that's going to last. There are a number of items under consideration. I may keep this portfolio or I may not. This has not been decided.

Marc South gave his presentation.

Pearson: But that's also a matter of the City Design Standards.

South: It is a matter of the City's Design Standards. It is also a matter of people coming in for waivers from the City's Design Standards. That's a case where support of the bicycling community, of the community as a whole is most important.

Pearson: When a waiver happens like that does the bicycle community have an opportunity to find out about it?

South: Anything like that would come before the Planning and Zoning Commission and ultimately go before the City Council so ...

Pearson: Okay.

South: The answer is "Yes, it would."

Pearson: Okay but ...

South: I mean that's, that's not a flex thing. That's a, that's a, it's ...

Pearson: Right.

South: Everybody's got to sign off on it.

Pearson: But, talking about the Design Standards a little bit more, that's been in the works for years.

South: Yes, it has.
Pearson: And it's still not done.

South: And it's still in the works.

Pearson: So we're still working under the old Design Standards which offer some really poor alternatives.

South: Yes, and ... 

Pearson: So I think staff has been good in pointing out that you guys need to do the good stuff rather than, and I think on the arterials there's pretty much been a requirement to do in road bicycle facilities but it's still, there's still that option that would let somebody not do those.

South: Yes, yes, it's still a heavy lift to get these things done. Continuing to increase the amount of bike parking, again it's a Design Standards issue. At the moment the standards for bike parking are kind of nonexistent.

Pearson: Well there's something in the Zoning Code.

South: There's something in the Zoning Code but it's very minimal.

Pearson: And it doesn't apply to renovations so ... 

South: That's correct.

Pearson: Almost any renovation, substantial renovations end up with the same bad bike parking.

South: Yes. Protected bicycle lanes, cycle tracks, buffered lanes, the community survey that Community Development did, one of the things that we kind of thought but we weren't sure was the amount of support we had within the community for separate bike paths, bike paths that are not a painted-off strip on the road, an honest-to-goodness bike path where you're a whole lot, you're more on your own, you're a whole lot safer.

Pearson: Yeah, bike path, if Eric was still here he'd say "bike path doesn't exist." The bike lane would be an in-road facility for ...

South: Yeah.

Pearson: Traveling but the multiuse trail, is that what you're really ...

South: Yeah.

Pearson: Talking about?
South: The multiuse trail.

Pearson: Right.

South: Exactly. You know you can, you can work through all of these. Some of these are things the City is working on, you know working on, working with bicycle groups and interested parents to expand Safe Routes to Schools, expanding our encouragement efforts to bike moms. But we know we need to do more and we want your all's input and ...

Pearson: Cause at some level this Committee has given input.

South: Yeah.

Pearson: We gave the, we recommended to the Policy Committee the resolution where each entity would endorse or select, nominate, whatever, employ a bike/ped contact of some sort so at some level we've done as much as we can do and the different governmental entities have to take ...

South: All of ...

Pearson: Over at that point.

South: All of ...

Pearson: There are other things that we could still do I think, maybe recommending specific trails.

South: Yes. We would be most interested in that and I think at this point in, in time I can say that the City is actively reviewing designating a bike/ped coordinator. That will be part of somebody's job. It will not be their whole job but it will be part of their job. Now exactly who that person is, it'll be somebody as, as I understand it at the moment and no more nor less than that it is some, it will be someone within Community Development but beyond that a ...

Pearson: Right.

South: It's not known who will take that role.

Pearson: Yeah, I think once that role is designated there'll be a certain amount of tasks that will come clear and if they're, they actually step up and are, are told to do the bike month activities, do a bike to work event ...

South: Yes.
Pearson: These nice things comparable that the City of Santa Fe and the City of
Albuquerque do.

South: Yes.

Pearson: We might find that it's more than a 10% job, might be a 70% job but that's ...

South: Well, and ...

Pearson: You know the City administration of course controls that but ...

South: Yes, absolutely. So that's really the nut of what you, you guys are all quite
capable of reading and, and going through the report and thinking which
way you want to go and how you want to get there and I just hope, my
extension is 3271, 528-3271. Until such time as you all are notified that,
that there is an official bike coordinator I'm the unofficial acting bike
coordinator and I will be happy to do whatever I can to, to faciliitate where
you're going and how you want to get there.

Pearson: Okay. Do we have any questions from any Committee members? Cause
I think one of the things we discussed before is kind of, we were talking
about doing a work session or something and try to decide where we
should go. I think this is kind of the, the toehold into those kinds of things.

Nunez: Right, and you had talked a little bit about the Design Standards and the
options that exist, like for on the collector and then on the larger roads the,
see what else I have here, arterials but it's an option, and then on the, the
minor local and the, there's a collector here that shows no bike. But
there's, if we have in our standards we have a number of options based on
the right-of-way we have.

Pearson: Right.

Nunez: So ...

Pearson: But for new developments, the developer gets to pick the right-of-way so
that's where, right?

South: Yeah, sort of-kind of.

Pearson: Sort of.

South: Yeah, there are, I mean there are ...
Pearson: But for new constructions it's flexible at least to a certain amount.

South: It's infinitely more flexible than ...

Pearson: Tom?

South: What already exists.

Murphy: Do, Mr. Chair. At least since the, I mean the, the Development Regulations do reference the MPO Transportation Plan and since the 2005 Transportation Plan the MPO policy has required that all new facilities have bike lanes so in, it's essentially the greenfield development where the, you know, for a new development, full right-of-way width. They, they are set, or they're required to do the, the option that has the bike lanes in it.

Pearson: And so that would be down to a collector level or ...

Murphy: That would be down to a collector level, that's correct.

Pearson: And then local roads of course don't need ...

Murphy: Local road ....

Pearson: Separate bike ...

Murphy: Don't need it, exactly and, and you had alluded to the, or you had Mr. South had alluded to about the City's undergone their Design Standards updates and, and some of you know those, those cross-sections will be going away and they'll have new ones that, that are, are, are multimodal in, in all forms.

Pearson: Is there any time frame for that yet or is it still work in progress ...

Murphy: It's ...

Pearson: That nobody knows?

Murphy: It's still, it's still a work in progress. I've been, I've been attending the staff meetings and it's a matter of getting, finding a, finding a, the engineering numbers that they're comfortable with as far as horizontal curvature, grade, and stuff like that. I think it's coming down, coming down to debate between the Institute of Traffic Engineers, the ITE Standards or the National Association of City Transportation Officials or NACTO Standards. I think, I think the City's going to go in one of those two directions.
Pearson: Okay. From what I've heard the NACTO has been like FHWA has, not adopted but allows NACTO so the City could have some flexibility there too but I don't know the City processes.

Murphy: Right, you've, it's a matter of the recommending, all the recommending staff getting comfortable with, with those standards and I believe they're going to have a public process where they do go about the, go about adopting them as official standards. But MPO staff has been attending those, those meetings.

Pearson: Okay. Because it would be interesting if there would be an option available for protected bike lanes on major arterials for example.

Nunez: Nice.

Pearson: Any other staff, Committee member?

Herrera: Mr. Chair.

Pearson: Yes.

Herrera: I was just curious when the next application cycle is?

South: It has to be done in four years. It could be done any time between now and then.

Herrera: Okay.

South: I think it's fair to say we're not inclined to do it early unless we, unless the situation on the ground has improved sufficiently. I mean if we look at it and say, "Hey we think we're at silver level now," yeah, we'll go ahead and, and, and do the work and get it done. But we're looking at this as roughly a four-year window. This process started November of '14. The application went in March of this year I think, February or March and then we got, we got the response back in June/July. It, they have three windows I think a year.

Pearson: Two.

South: Is it two?

Pearson: Two for the cities, yeah. They have different programs but two ... 

South: Yeah, different programs but they're, it's, it's a couple of times a year the door opens and, and you can go in. If the situation were such that in looking at it and comparing ourselves to silver cities we're saying, "Hey,
you know we think we're there," then we'll go ahead and, and do the work
and get it done.

Pearson: So one of the things that we had been talking about during this discussion
was the, the multiuse trails. The Amador Proximo process went through, I
don't know how involved you we with that but they identified the EBID
facility that runs right through the middle of that study area for a multiuse
trail. Of course that, it would make sense to do the entire length from the
outfall channel to probably where it terminates close to Valley Drive for I
think it's the Armijo lateral. We, I don't know if we, how we have that
facility ranked on or even if we have ranking, good rankings presently for
where we think trail should go. Maybe that's something this Committee
should look at doing is ...

Murphy: Yeah, I, I, I don't believe we have a, a ranking of them. I mean there are
so many laterals and you know the MPO and this Committee really does,
didn't have a lot of inside information about what's, what's impending,
where would be good trails to, to advocate as, as primary targets but now
something like the Amador Proximo comes through and maybe you know,
you know that, that's something that's suitable to, for this Committee to
give it a, a recommendation as you know ...

Pearson: Because there's, the past TAP cycle the City didn't apply for any projects
and so those would be the types of projects that the City maybe, it's even
possible to leverage off of Rails to Trails or something and TAP funds or
something.

Herrera: Or the Rec Trails Program.

Pearson: Right.

Murphy: Absolutely.

South: Although I, I would caution the Committee about trying to leverage off
Rails to Trails with that because part of what's envisioned in the Amador
Proximo document at least as it exists today is that that rail spur would,
would continue as a rail spur.

Pearson: Well, that's the main line for BNSF so that ...

South: Yeah.

Pearson: The rail itself, I was just talking about the trail.

South: But no there's, there is also a spur that runs up into that area.
Pearson: Yeah. I wasn't talking about the rails.

South: Okay.

Pearson: To use Rails to Trails monies, I was talking about their monies for the EBID facilities.

South: And fine.

Pearson: So maybe we should start looking at prioritizing, selecting projects and do a recommendation to, I guess we do our recommendations to the Policy Committee so they can recommend to the entities as to where, what makes sense for multiuse trails and we'll have that plan ready and ready to go whenever the City or any of the entities decide, "Well look, we have an opportunity." With the, the Rio Grande Valley Trail Commission gearing up there might be an opportunity for the County to apply for some of that kind of trail money, maybe from the end of La Llorona down to the Mesilla Dam. And it, at our last meeting we talked about the, the loop trail, that maybe University isn't the appropriate connection for the, the, the southern leg. Maybe we do need to go further out and connect under, what happens when Triviz goes underneath University. Cause I think that would, also has the potential to bring us further out to where there's more residential, all those developments south of Arrowhead Park and where the City and the County kind of mix together. I guess, any other comments? And Mark has joined us too about the middle of our discussion.

5.2 NMSU Bicycle Share Program Presentation - POSTPONED TO NEXT MONTH

5.3 Committee Attendance Discussion

Pearson: So we'll go on to our next item then which is our Committee attendance discussion. Yes.

South: Before we do that I have one, when is the next (inaudible) meeting?

Pearson: It's going to be the Thursday towards the end of the month. I forget whatever the date is, 20?

Nunez: The 27th.

Pearson: That sounds about right.

South: Okay. Thank you.
Pearson: Okay. Does staff have something or do you want me to jump in?

Murphy: We can, we can either do it either way. Based, based on the discussion last month staff went ahead and did some, or I guess we, we pulled attendance records for the, for the Committee members and I can pass, pass that out to aid in the discussion. Just to kind of bring, bring points home the, the MPO Bylaws guess requires attendance at all meetings. It, it does allow I guess you know 70, you know to go down to 75% attendance. Staff, staff members are part of the Committee. It's a (inaudible) upon the MPO officer to contact that, that entity's government if there, if there's an attendance problem. For Committee, or for Citizen Committee members that, that requirement for removal is the, the Chair request it to the Policy Committee then the Policy Committee will vote on malfeasance of office and requires five votes of, on the Policy Committee in, in support of that so I had some briefing of what the bylaws say on BPAC Committee attendance. Mr. Chair, if you'd like I can pass out the ...

Pearson: Why don't you pass that out ...

Murphy: Attendance sheets, okay.

Pearson: And because I think, well it's brought to our attention for one particular Committee member who promised to be here and is not here today and I don't know if any other Committee members fall close to that threshold or if we ...

Murphy: There was, there, yeah one, one Committee member who has that same threshold who's a, you know a, a staff member. He's, he's here today. You know I, I had, had a, I did have conversations with, with the Mayor before but I, I don't know if she spoke with you or this ...

Shepan: No my, my boss said, "Remember those meetings? The ones that I haven't been going to?" She goes, "Yeah," goes, "You're going again." And I, "Okay. I'll just add something else to my plate again."

Murphy: So that's, and I'll look, I guess let you guys look at the, look at the sheets and then discuss and you can just, the Committee give staff direction accordingly.

Herrera: So how many do we need for a quorum right now, is it five?

Murphy: Six for a quorum.

Herrera: Six, okay.

Pearson: And we were able to start the meeting today because Ashleigh found ...
Murphy:  Proxy.

Pearson:  A proxy so proxies work.

Herrera:  Right.

Pearson:  And last meeting, earlier in the day I sent an e-mail to Karen saying "You need, coming or you going to send a proxy?" and I didn't hear back from her and then staff and I was also in the e-mail loop, sent e-mail to Karen, well I think I sent an, somebody sent an e-mail or maybe it was my last e-mail I said, "Are you coming or do you want to resign and let somebody else step up?" and she indicated, "Oh well I've been busy and now I'm going to start coming back again," only she's not here today so I guess it's my, from what Tom says it's my decision whether to recommend. I'm kind of inclined to recommend to the Policy Committee that we remove her and ask somebody else to because I've had a couple of people ask me if there's openings for this Board and this is a community member, it's, it's just bicycle community so it's open to pretty much anybody in the county.

Nunez:  You going to make a motion and ...

Pearson:  Well we can't do a motion and, cause this is a discussion item so we can, we can talk about what I might do as Chair.

Nunez:  Oh, okay, I did think that ...

Pearson:  But we're not going to make a decision.

Nunez:  Right, right. Well ...

Murphy:  Right, the Chair, the Chair can seek your, the, the rest of the Committee's consensus on that, but ultimately the bylaws place, place the decision on his shoulders.

Nunez:  All right well, okay thanks for going over the process. Well the, the point I was going to make was is that that's the one person but then there's another here too that's at 50%, Mark, so but if you're only looking, the concern yeah, 16.67%, that's ...

Pearson:  Well I guess I'll, since Mark is here, the times that you're not here would you be able to make more of an effort to find a proxy?

Leisher:  Yeah. Usually I don't know I'm not going to be here until the last minute and that's what the problem is, so, but maybe I can line somebody up on a semi-permanent basis and have them show up.
Pearson: I know you used to use me but now I'm here.

Leisher: Yeah. Yeah that's, yeah I'm trying to convince some other people to step in and do some of this stuff. They haven't been very cooperative yet.

Pearson: But I think my inclination was if Karen was here I wouldn't suggest removing her, since she's not here my inclination is to suggest removing her.

Herrera: Mr. Chair. I, I support that and I think as far as you know Mark was concerned, you're busy enough. I don't think that we should discuss that removal.

Pearson: And it's, it's, that's already been covered really because it's ...

Herrera: Okay. So that's not a ...

Pearson: It's not our decision.


Pearson: This ...

Herrera: So it's just the one that you ...

Shepan: Since I'm the only one in my town that rides a bike.

Pearson: Only official bike, you mean.

Shepan: Yes.

Pearson: So that, it's between you and your boss and I think for this I think after this meeting I'll recommend that we bring this up to the next Policy Committee for an action item on the Policy Committee.

Murphy: Okay. I believe I need to get the Policy Committee agenda to the Sun News a week from tomorrow so if I could, I could have a letter in hand ...

Pearson: Okay just an e-mail work?

Murphy: Prior to that. E-mail should, e-mail should be fine.

Pearson: Okay.

Wray: It does, it needs to be addressed to the Chair.
Murphy: Needs, yeah, it needs to be, yeah addressed to Chair Linda Flores.

Pearson: Okay. And copy to you?

Murphy: Yes.

Pearson: Any further discussion on this?

6. COMMITTEE AND STAFF COMMENTS

6.1 MPO Staff Update: SRTP update, University Study Corridor Update

Pearson: So now we’re off to Committee and staff comments. MPO staff updates?

Murphy: Okay. We are wrapping up work on our SRTP, our Short-Range Transit Plan update. We’ve held, we, trying to, trying to think when it was last, see, okay. I think from your last meeting we’ve been working behind the scenes. We’ve been running, timing the, the various routes, making tweaks in the, in the routing and we’re planning on taking it to the Transit Advisory Board at their September meeting and then on to Council for their, City Council for their final approval and implementation of the new bus routes. If you haven’t had a chance to look at it, the information’s available on our website.

University study corridor update, in your packet I guess we’ve, we’ve been, after what, after they (inaudible) presentation to you they’ve, they basically settled upon this, the typical cross-section G and I forget, the F, what was the other cross-section that, the Cadillac?

Wray: Yes.

Herrera: I think it was F.

Murphy: Okay. I, I, I thought we had, had F in here as well but it looks like this, this will, these, those two sections will be the consultant’s recommendations moving forward. One, section G is one that can be implemented as soon, you know or quicker rather, sooner rather than later and then the cross-section F which is kind of the, the gold-plate one and ...

Pearson: The kind of multiuse?

Murphy: The multiuse and to show what, what the right-of-way requirements would be if the, if we were to try to go that route. We’re looking at having another public hearing on that in the next month or so. I think we’ll have to communicate to you by, by e-mail. We’re working on a, a couple, I got too many studies going on in my, in the air here. I, I think yeah they're
finalizing those right-of-way things and then we're going to work on some public hearing dates. It'll probably be hosted in the Town of Mesilla as well. Mayor Barraza's been very interested in this project.

Pearson: Okay.

Murphy: And then our last study update is Missouri extension or, or actually the Missouri/Roadrunner extension which was improving connections up in, in the Centennial High School area. We held a stakeholder meeting two weeks ago and we're planning on having some public input meetings. We're trying to secure either Centennial High School or the Farm and Ranch Museum for those public meetings and I think just, and Jolene was present there. I think the, the sense that I had was that staff involved in there are not looking at it from a roadway extension. I think they're more interested in, in a non-motorized or multimodal connection to improve connectivity to the use out there, out there.

Herrera: Yeah and I pretty much just flat-out asked the City where your priority list is building a new roadway and they said, you know, at the bottom. But ... 

Pearson: Okay, yeah that's what my other, my question would be is ...

Herrera: Right.

Pearson: After we do the planning is there any construction available?

Herrera: There's not and for a road like that because it is you know a local it would be a city street. Getting federal funding for that would be pretty difficult so it's something that the City would likely have to fund themselves or the County or you know ...

Pearson: Right.

Herrera: Somebody other than the DOT or them.

Pearson: And the school already has sufficient roadways for the safety/fire access concerns so this would be additional. It's more of traffic patterns than anything else and ...

Herrera: Right.

Pearson: Level of service kind of concerns.

Herrera: Pretty much and the Traffic Engineer for the City was there and I think that really when it came down to it, it was more, it was less about the Missouri extension and more about extending Roadrunner I think would help their
kind of travel patterns in that area. So that's something that was
discussed but, but they, the City and the County both seemed like they
were interested in looking at the multimodal element first.

Pearson: So Roadrunner would come from like Lohman to connect to where
Missouri area is, is that …

Herrera: Yeah and there were just like a couple different you know he just drew on
a piece of paper a couple different proposed alignments that kind of made
sense but again there's no construction money for that or anything so
yeah.

Murphy: And then I met yesterday with a gentleman who spoke to City Council and
they were involved in extending the Farm and Ranch Museum grounds
and they're, they're envisioning a, a trail system north of the Farm and
Ranch Museum and he was interested in what we were doing with this
study and it seems that some of, some of what they're doing could
intersect with some of what we're trying to accomplish as well.

Pearson: Okay.

Murphy: So that's gentleman's being added to the stakeholder list and that, that
might be another additional source of funding to, to get at least something
non-motorized constructed.

Pearson: The Adobe Hedge?

Murphy: That, the, I, I was trying to remember the name but I couldn't.

Pearson: You have think Stone Hedge and put Adobe in instead.

Murphy: Okay. Yeah I should be able to remember that for now and I think that
would conclude the MPO staff updates.

Shepan: I have a question. Is this the proposed one for the University study?

Murphy: Yes.

Shepan: In front of Zia Middle School?

Murphy: There will be a, I guess variations in this, with, particularly with regard to
Zia Middle School because we do realize the need for a turn lane in that
area.

Shepan: That's what I was just getting ready to ask. It's like right now traffic backs
up …
Murphy: Right.

Shepan: Coming west and if it was done like this we'd have traffic backed up to Avenida.

Murphy: No. This, this would be, this would be representative of the, the majority of the corridor but not that instance, however long that needs to be.

Pearson: So it would run from where to where?

Leisher: The entire road?

Herrera: Yeah. From Avenida to, that's where the study limits are.

Leisher: 28, yeah.

Murphy: To Main Street.

Leisher: Main Street.

Murphy: Main Street, yes.

Pearson: Oh. Okay.

Murphy: Right. So, so kind of in, you know right by Stanford Avenue you'd probably see this cross-section. As you get down closer, by the time you get down to McDowell then we would have a three-lane section because, because of the traffic generator that Zia is.

Shepan: And there's extra right-of-way in that area too.

Murphy: There is extra right-of-way in there. This ...

Shepan: Even without the EBID.

Murphy: Right. This, this represents the constraints of the narrowest right-of-way, point of right-of-way.

Pearson: Oh. Okay.

Shepan: Right. Well we, we still have that same problem with students at the school that we had two years ago. We met with school officials and they were going to do a study and we've told them what they need to do to fix the problem which is put a driveway all the way around the school which would alleviate a lot of traffic off the University and we were told that if
nothing was done in 30 days to let him know so we let him know and that's been a year.

Pearson: Well they've got new people there now too, right?
Shepan: No, this is Stan Rounds.
Pearson: Oh, okay. Well ...
Shepan: We went straight downtown cause the school and ...
Pearson: But he's got new people.
Shepan: The school, the principals, their hands are tied.
Pearson: Right.
Shepan: It's all about money up above them, what, and we understand that but we keep telling them, "A kid's going to get killed." It's going to happen and then they're going to throw money at it.
Pearson: Well let's throw money at it first.
Shepan: Yeah.

6.2 Local Projects update

Pearson: Okay. City updates.
Nunez: The La Llorona Trail construction started on August 3rd. That's the job that extends the pervious concrete from close to Picacho by Highway 70 to the north up to Las Cruces outfall channel and then the other trail project is the, on east of the Las Cruces Dam and that design is complete and it should start winter 2015.
Pearson: You haven't gone to bid on that yet though. Still you have to complete design and then go out to bid, is that how that works?
Nunez: Right. And then after that it takes several months.
Pearson: So you're not done with the design yet but it's still on progress.
Nunez: According to the project manager he was done with his design.
Pearson: Okay so you, do you know when it's going out to bid?
Nunez: Let me work backwards from the winter, it's winter so it's, so in December 2015 so before that, so a couple months before that. So ...

Pearson: So it should be coming up at City Council pretty, pretty soon.

Nunez: Yes, yes. And then Veteran's Park midblock crossing there at Veteran's Park. I misspoke last time, it was going to be a hot system and it's, it's just going to be flashers and the materials were on their way. I'm not sure when the construction of that's going to take place.

And the Elks Drive reconstruction. That's what we talked about. They're going from two lanes to four lanes from Reina to Hatfield and that's going to have a six-foot-wide bike lane.

Then the bid items, the bids came back from Sixth Street and that one is now, they've opened the bid so a couple weeks, a couple months they should start on construction on that and that's from Parker heading to the north. It'll be the ADA ramps and pedestrian improvements.

And then in design is West Hadley, Alameda to Water. This is the full recon ramps and roadway.

We are in construction on Amador ADA, Mcswain to Archuleta and improvement both sides, broken concrete, sidewalks, and drive pads, curb returns.

And then I have here four projects we just completed but the one I want to point out is the one from Locust from Missouri to Rentfrow. They should be striping that soon if they haven't already in the next few weeks.

Pearson: Okay.

Murphy: I was, I was able to look up the Las Cruces Dam bid opening. It's October 15th is, October 15t they're estimating the bid opening.

Nunez: So the, right in the middle. A week before winter. We're working back.

Pearson: So then the process would put that in ...

Nunez: Done.

Pearson: The first November Council meeting or the second November Council meeting. How long does the rest of that process take?

Murphy: It's usually about a two, it'll probably be if, if there's, if they are poised to get, to run it through they could probably get it the first November meeting but more than likely the second November.

Pearson: Okay.
Herrera: And then it might take just a little while for the DOT process on that one too, cause they have to make sure that everything, that the contractors turn in everything and stuff but that should only be a couple of weeks after those.

Pearson: Okay let's, there's the J. Paul Taylor Charter School construction and there, the streets down there and, do you know anything about the traffic patterns that they're expecting for drop-off for the school?

Nunez: No, I do not know about J. Paul Taylor.

Pearson: Cause that might be of interest to the, especially to the neighborhood but traffic patterns at the Safe Routes to School Coalition meeting we discussed maybe trying to set up an off-site walk to school location that might alleviate the need for as much traffic into the neighborhood.

Nunez: I'll talk to my supervisor and then he also works with the Traffic Engineer.

Pearson: Okay.

Nunez: So that, you said J. Paul Taylor and did you mention another one too or just the J. Paul Taylor?

Pearson: Just the J. Paul Taylor.

Nunez: Okay.

Pearson: It's the Court Youth Center/Charter School ...

Nunez: Okay.

Pearson: Complex, whatever they're calling it now.

Shepan: Alma de Arte, isn't they ...

Pearson: Yes.

Shepan: Over there?

Pearson: They're expanding Alma de Arte, they're adding J. Paul Taylor as a whole new building there. Something else is going on there too. I can't remember.

Shepan: Cause I knew they moved Crossroads out. They were up on ...

Pearson: Right.
Shepan: Amador, between Amador and Lohman at the old Head Start.

Pearson: Right. So Las Cruces Avenue had got resurfaced between Water and Alameda and that's great but it covered over the signal detectors so I can't tell anymore where to park my bike so I can get the signals to trigger. Is there any way that that can be somehow figured out? I think, it seems like the METCD has some provision for designating where bicycles should land, or that might be just for a special bicycle trigger device but I found myself needing to cross on the red more than I've ever had to before because it's just not triggering and I can wait for it to count down. During the day the pedestrian signal will activate and then it starts counting down, it's like, "Okay, great," and then the pedestrian signal reactives because I haven't found the sweet spot so I, when we were doing the bicycle-friendly community meetings or actually it's when we did the ordinance we were talking about the problem of bicycles and signal detection and we, we were, we, talking about the ordinances, "Well should we do an Idaho stop kind of thing or a, a signal, some sort of rule where if the signal doesn't turn after a minute or two minutes or whatever," and our, what we decided at that point was, "No, we don't want to mess with the laws. What we want to do is make sure that that signal activation works." So that's, that's really where I'm going is how can we make sure that we can get the signal activation to work especially where we have bicycle facilities designated, and Las Cruces Avenue is one of our bicycle facilities. I've had trouble occasionally with some other, so and at Donnelly people have trouble and I don't know if we can come up with a way to actually verify that, how bicycles should behave at intersections where we have bicycle facilities to trigger these lights.

Nunez: The little bit that I know about it, I can, I can look into it some more but the, I know there was discussion and I've seen some of the sketches where they have the boxes in front and then they actually allow the bicycles to go first and then the vehicles and so, but then I don't know how sensitive those are ...

Pearson: Yeah, I don't know if that ...

Nunez: Versus how the larger ones that, cause most of the sensors are designed for the cars and the cars that park there.

Pearson: Yeah.

Nunez: So then the, if you have the stripe, if it's striped so that you have the block and, and, cause so many times as you well know even cars go beyond that and they don't trigger the sensor cause they're past where the sensor is.
Pearson: Right.

Nunez: So, so I think the quick answer may be that if it's striped correctly, maybe we can stripe it to where we can actually put a box or a couple additional lines so that if it is designed to also be able to sense for the bicycles then we could actually have it striped to that ...

Pearson: Right.

Nunez: To that area.

Pearson: Yeah. Cause all, all I would need would be a line on the ground that would show where the best sweet spot is.

Nunez: Right.

Murphy: Mr. Chair. I think also the sensitivity of it can be adjusted too, if you said it really has been a recent overlay it may not be sensitive enough to pick up ...

Pearson: Right, yeah, because ...

Murphy: The cycle and we alert the Traffic Engineer about that and perhaps there's something that they can, they can adjust in order to, they can ...

Pearson: Because in order to trigger it I, I had to be right exactly on the center ...

Murphy: Right.

Pearson: Before so it's, it's ...

Murphy: It's probably in the same place.

Pearson: I just, where is it?

Murphy: It just needs to, it needs to, you're probably hitting it. It just needs to be more sensitive.

Pearson: That could also be happening too.

Murphy: Yeah, I don't think ...

Pearson: Yeah that, those lights, during the day they get different activation than during the night so I haven't really been there at night but during off hours if you get close to it, it'll turn green immediately.
Murphy: Right.

Pearson: And you can tell when it's ...

Murphy: Cause if it's, there's, there's more asphalt on there it's probably less likely to be able to pick up ...

Pearson: Yeah.

Murphy: On a small round object.

Pearson: I don't know how much they added onto there.

Murphy: I will, I will send Mr. Roman an e-mail.

Pearson: Okay. Town of Mesilla do you have any projects or anything to update? NMSU? We'll get that next time.

8.2 NMDOT Projects update

Pearson: NMDOT.

Herrera: Basically nothing's changed since last month. We're behind schedule on North Main.

Pearson: More behind or still the same behind?

Herrera: Still the same behind. We're not more behind but we're hoping for the end of September hopefully, but we keep setting these deadlines and they keep going past them so I think really there were just a lot of issues with, with utilities and things and hopefully those have all been worked out by now and they're adding lighting and working on driveway pads and things now so those are normally what they start working on after the issues have been solved so we're hoping for end of September, being optimistic on that.

The Missouri project is still way ahead of schedule. They have until February 2015, or 2016 to complete the project. They're right now shooting for early December of this year to have that completed. Of course if there's any delays with weather or anything that'll push the date back but right now they're really moving along pretty quick on that project.

Pearson: Right. I've heard a couple of comments about especially the multiuse trail in that area. I don't know if, I know Bridget, I was part of an e-mail with Bridget and somebody from the construction, I don't know if you saw that or not and Jamie was telling me at the beginning of the meeting ...
Lakey: Yeah.  
Pearson: That she had some comments, so maybe she can comment now.  
Lakey: Okay. Yeah. I can comment now.  
Pearson: Cause they're the, very similar.  
Lakey: Okay.  
Pearson: If you give your comments they're going to be almost, from what I had heard they're going to be similar ...  
Lakey: Okay.  
Pearson: To what I had heard already.  
Lakey: So you know where they put the drainage in?  
Herrera: Underneath?  
Lakey: They have like a bar.  
Herrera: You're talking about on Missouri, right?  
Lakey: I'm talking about on Missouri where Triviz.  
Herrera: Okay.  
Lakey: So once you pass that light, they put a drainage thing in with some guard rails and it cuts the multiuse path to like maybe as wide as this table, if that.  
Herrera: Okay.  
Lakey: I don't think it's that, and it, cause they put in the turning lane as well so there's like, I don't see how it's going to be as effective so I don't know what's going on with it. It'd be nice to know.  
Herrera: Right. Okay. Yeah, I'll get an update for you on that. I'll talk to the project manager tomorrow and see if I can figure out what's going on and send an e-mail to Tom and you can distribute, okay. Okay. And I'm guessing that it's probably just during construction but we have rules in place that say access is supposed to be open during construction so I'll definitely check on that.
Lakey: Right well what I was talking about is where they built it, it's so, it's so far out that the path is basically going to be gone when they're done cause they added the turning lane in to where when you come onto it, when you're coming from like the mall ...

Herrera: Okay.

Lakey: And you're coming in there's that extra little turning lane now, so in that little spot right between the two ...

Herrera: Then there's, that's where you have that (inaudible) ...

Lakey: You have that drainage thing with the, the protector rails and there's like, there's no way they're going to be able to fit an actual path.

Herrera: Okay.

Murphy: I believe there's an AASHTO minimum width.

Herrera: There is.

Murphy: So ...

Herrera: Yeah.

Murphy: Yeah.

Herrera: So they've got to at least meet that.

Murphy: Yeah, the ...

Herrera: But I'll ...

Murphy: Contractor ...

Herrera: I'll check ...

Murphy: Might not be aware.

Herrera: On it and ...

Lakey: Okay.

Herrera: And get something back to you on it.
Pearson: Yeah, I think from the feedback that I got from the other e-mail it sounded like the contractor talked to the person that was asking these questions and it was, it sounded like a, "Well we're doing exactly how the plans go," or something like that so I don't know if maybe the plans are not being interpreted correctly or maybe the plans weren't done quite right or things look different on plans than they do when they're actually done.

Herrera: Right. Well, and then to go beyond that we have inspectors for the DOT who are supposed to be looking for things like that too, so yeah let me get with the project manager and just get a feel for what's going on and I'll get something ...

Lakey: Okay.

Herrera: To Tom either this week or early next week for you all. Let's see. The Ramp E and Union bridges, those are underway. If you've been on I-10 or over there, there's been periodic closures of Union Avenue. They do have 240 days on that project. There's really not a sense right now because we're so early about if they're working fast or slow but they do have almost a year scheduled on that project so we're going to be doing this for a little while.

Pearson: Yeah. On, on that project the on-ramp from University to go to El Paso, I knew the project was happening so I didn't know exactly when so I thought, "Well, I'll look at NMRoads," this was just last Monday I think, and I couldn't find anything on the project.

Herrera: Yes, okay.

Pearson: So I was like, "RRR," so then I went, "So it must still be open," I thought so I went on that ramp and it's all ...

Herrera: Right.

Pearson: Closed off and it's like, "Okay." U-turn and go around the other way. Since then, like Wednesday afterwards it's like, "Well let me check again," and there was something on NMRoads and today I saw you've got big signs up, the electronic boards that say, "Ramp closed. Use Conway." Which I don't remember seeing, I think I would've seen that last Tuesday when I was using that so ...

Herrera: That was probably something that wasn't ...

Pearson: Yeah.

Herrera: The communication probably wasn't the best on that.
Pearson: And today on the way here I saw there was a "Use Conway. I-10 use Conway" past where the ramp is.

Herrera: It's straight before the ramp, okay.

Pearson: Seems like having one before might've caught my attention.

Herrera: Right. Okay.

Pearson: And, and then because I just, you know, "I'm not going to deal with this, I'm, Conway's probably closed too so I'm going to just go up to I-10, or I-25 and get, get where I need to go."

Shepan: Well I know there's a sign there at University and Main because I ... 

Pearson: Right. That's ...

Shepan: I go down and hit Conway on-ramp to come home.

Herrera: Okay. Well we'll just, I'll talk to the project manager and just look at ...

Pearson: Yeah, so I think ... 

Herrera: All that.

Pearson: You might be adding things as complaints come in perhaps or something, I don't know if the, the signage plan was done up right or done, or followed through but whatever. That's my comment on that.

Herrera: Okay. Yeah. I'll check on both those things and try to get you responses or signs moved or something because people definitely need to know where they're going. Let's see.

And then the other project that we have kind of in the works is the I-10 project. It's going to be a pavement preservation and it's from Jackrabbit to the I-10/I-25 interchange and the bids open on that one this Friday so a couple months for awarding and everything and then probably a couple more months for the project to be ramped up so probably look at winter for construction on that, and we do realize that the two projects, the Ramp E/Union bridges and this one overlap and so we're aware of that. I think what's been discussed in meetings is to have this project stop and wait until the Union and Ramp E project is done and then continue through so that the pavement is all nice and ...

Pearson: That would make sense.
Herrera: Yeah, and we wanted to ...

Pearson: That would be the ...

Herrera: Do this I-10 because all the bridges on I-10 will now be done through town after this set is upgraded so. And that's all I have that's in the immediate area. Are there any questions?

Pearson: During the City Council, the discussion of the Amador Proximo Jerry Paz who gave us a presentation last, last meeting talked a little bit about that they're kind of in hold phase now between whether the City's going to, or whoever's going to decide on if they can do that protected side path configuration for the roadway and he mentioned something like the need to find another $2 million to do that which is closer, harder number than what he had when he was here for us so it sounds like they've worked out pretty well what the possibilities are and I don't know if the, the City might, they might be asking the City or the state, anyways if you got an extra $2 million it'd be great to have that roadway configuration.

Herrera: Yeah. And we, we did have a meeting and NMDOT, Molzen Corbin who's the consultant, and City staff did meet last week. Councilor Small was there, the City Manager, Assistant City Manager, and the Public Works Director. So we all kind of sat down and, and tried to talk about what the options are. Really, nothing was chosen at the meeting. It's something that the City staff is kind of working out internally what they're looking for because ultimately the DOT wants to give that road to the City ...

Pearson: Right.

Herrera: When we're done and so we're trying to accommodate as much of, of what they want as possible but still stay within the budget that's already programmed.

Pearson: Right.

Herrera: Because Trent's kind of made it clear all along that $11 million is the budget and if there's extra elements that the City needs, they're going to have to try to come up with some money.

Pearson: Right.

Herrera: I think the number that Jerry came up with, for that $2 million was, was for the side path but it seemed like it was also maybe for something else. I'll have to go back and look at, at what his numbers were but it seems like there was a, that option and then the lesser option that was a little bit cheaper.
Pearson: Okay.

Herrera: So I'll have to ...

Pearson: So they might've come up with something to tweak that plan a little bit more.

Herrera: They might have. I know that right now the DOT is still keeping Molzen on a, sort of a holding pattern until ...

Pearson: Right that's what ...

Herrera: Somebody ...

Pearson: That's how Jerry ended his comment is like, "We're in hold until somebody decides something."

Herrera: Right and so, I mean I think ultimately the, the Valley Drive project is a DOT project but because we're trying to work with the City to get the road ...

Pearson: Has the City ...

Herrera: Over to them ...

Pearson: Expressed any preference for the Amador Proximo ideas?

Herrera: Some City staff has and some has not and I think that's really where the disconnect is, it's, it's within the City itself and I think those are the issues that are sort of being worked out now.

Pearson: Cause the City would probably have to float bonds if they really wanted.

Herrera: Yeah. The City Manager did mention something about possibly doing the project in phases so that we would build whatever we intend to build and then that they would come in later with more money and do certain things so there's just a whole bunch of options still on the table ...

Pearson: Okay.

Herrera: Right now but, but we have told them what our timeline is and we're going to stick to our timeline and, cause we have to; that's the stipulation on $11 million worth of funding so ...

Pearson: Right.
Herrera: So that's, that's how I know about that.

Pearson: Okay. Any Committee members have any more comment?

Nunez: Just a guess or a question. Could it be the, the issue of the drainage? Is that it? On ...

Herrera: No.

Nunez: It wasn't?

Herrera: I mean that was discussed but I think that Public Works and the DOT Project Development Engineer have worked that out so ...

Nunez: Yeah. Okay.

Herrera: Yeah, that's not one of the ...

Nunez: So it's something else in terms ...

Herrera: Issues right now.

Nunez: Of maybe the width and what's up above the ground and the, what I want to say, the foliage and everything else?

Herrera: I don't think it's so much a matter of width. It's a matter of, of money really. What it comes down to is the, what the City wants to do with the Amador Proximo is not within our $11 million budget.

Nunez: Okay.

Herrera: It's outside of that.

Nunez: All right. Thanks.

Pearson: Okay.

7. PUBLIC COMMENT

Pearson: We have another opportunity for public comment. Seeing none.

8. ADJOURNMENT (6:01 p.m.)

Pearson: I'll have a motion to adjourn.
Herrera: Motion to adjourn.
Shepan: Second.
Pearson: Motion and second. We're adjourned.

Chairperson