

1 **MESILLA VALLEY METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION**
2 **TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

3
4 The following are minutes for the meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee of the
5 Mesilla Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) which was held May 7, 2015
6 at 4:00 p.m. in Commission Chambers at Dona Ana County Government Building, 845
7 Motel Blvd., Las Cruces, New Mexico.

8
9 **MEMBERS PRESENT:** Mike Bartholomew (CLC Transit)
10 Jerry Cordova proxy for Louis Grijalva (CLC Public Works)
11 Jolene Herrera (NMDOT)
12 John Knopp (Town of Mesilla)
13 Harold Love (NMDOT)
14 Bill Childress (BLM) (arrived 4:07)
15 John Gwynne (DA Flood Commission)

16
17 **MEMBERS ABSENT:** Jack Valencia (SCRTD)
18 Larry Altamirano (LCPS)
19 Willie Roman (CLC Transportation)
20 Rene Molina (DAC Engineering)
21 Greg Walke (NMSU)
22 Luis Marmolejo (DAC)
23 Debbi Lujan (Town of Mesilla)

24
25 **STAFF PRESENT:** Andrew Wray (MPO Staff)
26 Michael McAdams (MPO Staff)
27 Sharon Nebbia (MPO Staff)

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

30
31 **1. CALL TO ORDER (4:06 p.m.)**

32
33 Bartholomew: Okay. I'm, I'm going to go ahead and call to order the, for the meeting for
34 the Technical Advisory Committee for May 7th, 2015. Before we start I'll
35 have the Committee Members introduce themselves and say where
36 they're from and just remind all of the members that when they speak or
37 make a comment if they could state their name as well so the, the person
38 recording the minutes will know who's talking. And I'll start here on my far
39 right.

40
41 Love: Harold Love, New Mexico DOT.

42
43 Cordova: Jerry Cordova, City of Las Cruces proxy for Louis Grijalva.

44
45 Herrera: Good afternoon. Jolene Herrera, NMDOT.
46

1 Bartholomew: And I'm Mike Bartholomew, City of Las Cruces RoadRUNNER Transit.

2
3 Knopp: John Knopp, Town of Mesilla.

4
5 Childress: Bill Childress, Bureau of Land Management.

6
7 Gregory: Todd Gregory, Las Cruces Public Schools proxy Larry Altamirano.

8
9 Bartholomew: Thank you.

10
11 **2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

12
13 Bartholomew: The first item is the approval of the agenda. Do you have any changes
14 for the agenda?

15
16 Wray: No.

17
18 Bartholomew: Okay. I'll take a motion to approve the agenda.

19
20 Love: So moved.

21
22 Herrera: Second.

23
24 Bartholomew: It's been moved and seconded. All in favor please say "aye."

25
26 MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

27
28 **3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

29
30 **3.1 April 2, 2015**

31
32 Bartholomew: Next is approval of the minute, the minutes from April 2nd. Does
33 anybody, has everybody had a chance to read through them or offer any
34 corrections? Seeing, seeing none is there a motion to accept the, the
35 minutes of April 2nd, or approve them rather?

36
37 Herrera: Move to approve.

38
39 Love: Second.

40
41 Bartholomew: Okay. It's been moved and seconded that all those in favor please say
42 "aye."

43
44 MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

45
46 Bartholomew: It passes. And it looks like we have Mr. Gwynne joining us now as well.

1 **4. PUBLIC COMMENT**

2
3 Bartholomew: Any public here? Doesn't look like there's any public for comment today.
4 I'll move on.

5
6 **5. ACTION ITEMS**

7
8 **5.1 Recommend Approval of Amendments to the 2014-2019**
9 **Transportation Improvement Program**

10
11 Bartholomew: First Action Item, 5.1 is to Recommend Approval of Amendments to the
12 2014-2019 Transportation Improvement Program.

13
14 Wray: Thank you Mr. Chair.

15
16 Andrew Wray gave his presentation.

17
18 Herrera: Thank you Andrew. The information listed on page nine for control
19 number E100180 at the bottom of the sheet there is correct but what was
20 presented to the BPAC was milepost zero to 10.75 so it was the full length
21 of the project. The reason for the change is because that first little section
22 is actually in the El Paso MPO boundary and so in order to not duplicate
23 the amount of funding in our STIP we had to split it up by MPO so the full
24 project will be from zero to 10.75 but what's shown here is just the Mesilla
25 Valley MPO section.

26
27 Bartholomew: Thank you. Any, any questions on that project or the other projects that
28 are before us? Seeing no questions is, is there a, a motion to recommend
29 to the Policy Committee approval of these amendments to the TIP?

30
31 Knopp: So moved.

32
33 Childress: I'll second it.

34
35 Bartholomew: It's been moved and seconded. I'll, I'll go ahead and call the question.
36 All in favor please say "aye."

37
38 MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

39
40 Bartholomew: Opposed? Okay. The motion passes.

41
42 **6. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

43
44 **6.1 Commencement of Public Comment Period Prior to Adoption of**
45 **2016-2021 Transportation Improvement Program**

1 Bartholomew: Next item is Discussion Item 6.1, the Commencement of Public Comment
2 Period Prior to Adoption of the 2016-2021 Transportation Improvement
3 Program.
4

5 Wray: Thank you Mr. Chair.
6

7 Andrew Wray gave his presentation.
8

9 Bartholomew: Any questions from the Committee? So does today kick off the public
10 comment period or will it be on the, it's posted on your website?
11

12 Wray: We're counting it as today and we hope to have it posted on the website
13 as soon as possible.
14

15 Bartholomew: Okay. Thank you. Any other questions from the Committee at this
16 moment? I don't see any questions.
17

18 Wray: Good.
19

20 **7. COMMITTEE AND STAFF COMMENTS**

21 **7.1 City of Las Cruces, Dona Ana County, Town of Mesilla, Las Cruces** 22 **Public Schools, RoadRUNNER Transit, and SCR TD Project Updates** 23 24

25 Bartholomew: So I guess we can move on. Andrew, if you can go ahead and explain
26 the addition to, to 7.1, to the agenda and about it being a permanent
27 addition.
28

29 Wray: Yes, Mr. Chair. At our recent quality control meeting that we had with
30 NMDOT staff on April the 27th, DOT expressed a desire for the MPO
31 broadly speaking not just as staff but as the Advisory Committees and the
32 Policy Committee as well to have a, a, not necessarily a role but to be
33 better informed as a whole of the projects that are going on in the area
34 and so it was suggested and staff agreed that there be a new item on the
35 Committee agendas specifically laying out the items that are currently
36 listed in the TIP for each jurisdiction, and for the convenience of the
37 jurisdiction representatives we've listed, we've listed those control
38 numbers and the project title on the discussion sheet for future reference
39 so people can come prepared.
40

41 Bartholomew: Okay. So you're looking for comments today on it or ...
42

43 Wray: Yes, please, Mr. Chair.
44

45 Bartholomew: Okay. What page is it?
46

1 Wray: It's on page 47.
2
3 Bartholomew: Any comments from the, the City regarding the El Paseo project or the
4 Las Cruces Dam Trail project?
5
6 Cordova: Yes, Mr. Chair. The, the El Paseo Safety Project, I'm personally working
7 on that one as the designer. We are scheduled for a June PS&E with the,
8 with the NMDOT and the FHWA to get that one approved to go to bid
9 hopefully in October. We're on schedule to get that done so we're
10 anticipating that will happen. The project is making improvements to all of
11 the intersections along the El Paseo corridor from Alameda to University
12 Avenue, mainly improvements like ADA for the sidewalks at the corners
13 that are sight distance on the ped heads, push button placement, some
14 better markings for the crosswalks, things like that generally just to make
15 the intersections more safe. That was identified in the road safety audit
16 that was done as part of a planning project that, that the City did. The Las
17 Cruces Dam Trail project I'm not real familiar with but I know it is ongoing,
18 the design is ongoing now. I'm not sure when they're ready to, to go to
19 PS&E on that one.
20
21 Bartholomew: Okay. Any questions for Mr. Cordova about the City projects? Now, you
22 said that the El Paseo one was the, was the traffic lights part of that
23 project too?
24
25 Cordova: There's just minor improvements to the traffic lights. I think we're putting
26 in some, some more indicators for no right turns on red to help the
27 pedestrian movements but the signals really aren't going to be receiving a
28 lot of work other than the pedestrian portion of the signals.
29
30 Bartholomew: Okay. Anyone present to speak to the Dona Ana County current
31 projects? Okay. Town of Mesilla, the University Avenue study corridor?
32
33 Knopp: Well, unfortunately, I thought Debbie would be here to speak about it and I
34 didn't talk to her so ...
35
36 Bartholomew: Okay.
37
38 Wray: Mr. Chair, at the Committee's indulgence I can give a little bit of an update
39 on that one. We met in the latter part of April for an initial kickoff meeting
40 with staff and actually that one was just with the staff and consultants. We
41 were initially looking at a late May public involve, initial public involvement
42 meeting but the last that I heard the consultant is recommending that we
43 push the first public involvement meeting to June. That's where things
44 stand currently.
45

1 Bartholomew: Okay and is this University Avenue all the way from Main to Avenida that
2 we're ...
3
4 Wray: Yes, both the City and the Town of Mesilla are, are at the table for this
5 project.
6
7 Bartholomew: Okay.
8
9 Wray: And NMDOT.
10
11 Bartholomew: Okay. Any other questions on that project? Las Cruces Public Schools
12 Safe Routes to School coordinator position?
13
14 Gregory: Well that one's still set. We're still on schedule to keep it going. I know
15 there's an initial webinar coming up that we need to attend and get more
16 details and then start submitting, you know get our stuff on there, our, our
17 School Board agenda and, and finalize it but it still looks good. We're,
18 we're good to go, so.
19
20 Bartholomew: Okay. Any other questions on that one? And the RoadRUNNER transit
21 one that, they're pretty much our, our typical ones that we have every year
22 for operations and support equipment. It's primarily our formula funding,
23 our 5307 funding and it's divided between our operating projects and our
24 planned capital projects which is under the support equipment and rolling
25 stock. So if there's any specific questions about that I can answer those.
26 And with the bus purchase I, I know that the RTD Board, was it last week
27 was it that they met, that they approved the purchase of the, of the buses
28 and I'm assuming the County's acting as a purchasing agent, correct for ...
29
30 Wray: Yes, Mr. Chair.
31
32 Bartholomew: For that. So any other questions on the, the TIP projects? If not.
33
34 **7.2 NMDOT Projects Update**
35
36 Bartholomew: I'll move on to updates from NMDOT on their projects.
37
38 Herrera: Thank you Mr. Chair. So I'll go over the, the projects that are currently
39 under development listed there on page 48 of the packet and then I'll turn
40 it over to Harold to give you the construction updates on ongoing projects.
41 So I'll just go right down the list: 1100620, the I-10 mill and inlay project
42 that one right now is scheduled to let next spring but it might be moving
43 up. We're not exactly sure yet but we might be doing a swap of funding
44 with District 2 in Fiscal Year 2015. We'll definitely have more details on
45 that probably next month for, for you all and we'll make sure to keep you
46 updated on when that might be moving to.

1 Bartholomew: Can I just interrupt?
2
3 Herrera: Sure.
4
5 Bartholomew: Which page were you referring to?
6
7 Herrera: I'm on page 48 of the packet.
8
9 Bartholomew: Let me flip it over. Okay. Thank you.
10
11 Cordova: Question on that Jolene. Where, where more or less is mile marker 146 to
12 164?
13
14 Herrera: It's from the other side of the I-10/I-25 interchange all the way to the Texas
15 state line.
16
17 Cordova: Okay. Thank you.
18
19 Herrera: The next project: 1100830, the I-10 bridge replacement at Union. The
20 pre-construction meeting for that one is actually next week on the 14th
21 and so the contractor is on board and will be receiving the final timeline for
22 construction on that next week at the pre-con. LC00100, I'll let Harold talk
23 about that in his update. That's the Missouri bridge project. LC00150, the
24 I-10 pavement preservation project, this one is from Jackrabbit
25 interchange to this side of the I-10/I-25 interchange. We're looking at
26 letting that one in August. LC00160, that's Valley Drive. Right now the
27 consultant has finished the Phase A report. They're internally going over
28 with NMDOT staff the alternatives that came out of that. We should be
29 having a public meeting, I don't remember when it's scheduled. I'll look
30 that up and make sure that it gets to MPO staff and I'm sure that some of
31 you are already on the distribution lists for, for that project anyway but I'll
32 make sure that I follow up on that one.
33
34 Bartholomew: What stretch of Valley Drive is that?
35
36 Herrera: It's from Picacho all the way to Avenida and then actually it also is that
37 little portion of Avenida from Valley Drive to where our I-10 project at the
38 bridge left off so there's just that little stretch that's not done so we're
39 going to go ahead and take care of that, connect the bike facilities and
40 everything there. And then the last two, unfortunately I don't have any
41 updates from our rail section on those. I can try to get something from
42 them and e-mail it out if anybody's interested or has any specific questions
43 that they'd like me to ask.
44

1 Bartholomew: With the Union Avenue project you said that, what, when is the actual
2 construction do you think it, is it going to be some, somewhat concurrent,
3 is it going to be overlapping with the Missouri bridge as well?
4
5 Herrera: Yes.
6
7 Bartholomew: So they'll both be going on at the same time.
8
9 Herrera: Yes.
10
11 Bartholomew: What about the Valley road? That ...
12
13 Herrera: No, that one's out in Fiscal Year 2017.
14
15 Bartholomew: Okay.
16
17 Herrera: So yeah, we won't have to worry about that but the two bridge projects will
18 be somewhat overlapping.
19
20 Bartholomew: I'm just thinking of my poor frustrated bus drivers.
21
22 Herrera: I know. Well and the students too at NMSU. We're at work, we're aware
23 of that. We're thinking of that too so we're going to do everything that we
24 can to try to minimize those impacts but unfortunately, I mean its
25 construction so.
26
27 Bartholomew: And I, I would note that for our routes that even though you can go under
28 the Missouri bridge now, there's no lanes closed but rather, since we, it's,
29 rather than going back and forth and back and forth we just made a
30 permanent detour that we're crossing on University Avenue and going up
31 Don Roser instead while this is going on so we don't leave our passengers
32 surprised by a sudden change.
33
34 Herrera: Thank you and I'll turn it over to Harold to give updates on ongoing
35 projects.
36
37 Gwynne: Real quick Jolene I have, I do have a question.
38
39 Herrera: Sure.
40
41 Gwynne: On the Goathill Road project, can you get us in touch with the people that
42 are working on that?
43
44 Herrera: Sure.
45

1 Gwynne: We actually have a, a flood control project that we're trying to look at in the
2 same area.
3
4 Herrera: Okay.
5
6 Gwynne: And so we'd like to try to coordinate efforts.
7
8 Herrera: Yes. I can certainly get you in touch with the person from our Rail Bureau.
9 Harold, is it you or Aaron that works with the Rail Bureau on those
10 projects?
11
12 Love: Actually it's Maria.
13
14 Herrera: Okay so our, the District 1 traffic engineer, Maria Hinojos, is the ...
15
16 Gwynne: Okay.
17
18 Herrera: Contact so I'll get you her information and then also for Rob Fine from our
19 Rail Bureau.
20
21 Gwynne: Okay. Thank you.
22
23 Herrera: Sure.
24
25 Love: Okay, ongoing projects: Control number 1100470, that's US-70/North
26 Main. It's continued under construction. They're, they're working on curb
27 and gutter and putting in light poles and concrete paving.
28
29 Bartholomew: I had a question on that.
30
31 Love: Yes.
32
33 Bartholomew: Is, is the, I, I know there is a design for a bus pullout in there, is that going
34 to be kind of like near the end of the, the paving on that? Are they building
35 that?
36
37 Love: I, I believe so. I believe it's near the end of the project or later on in the
38 project, yes.
39
40 Bartholomew: Okay. They keep wanting to see the cutout.
41
42 Love: Exactly.
43
44 Bartholomew: And then I don't see it.
45

1 Love: I think the, the side of the road that the bus pullout's going to be they, they
2 haven't started final construction on that side so ...
3
4 Bartholomew: That's where they're keeping their equipment and materials.
5
6 Love: Yes. Exactly.
7
8 Bartholomew: Is on that side, yeah. And is it still looking like for a late June finish or
9 more in July?
10
11 Love: Last I heard was July, near the end of July.
12
13 Bartholomew: End of July. Okay.
14
15 Love: The Missouri bridge projects, moving right along. Contractor is working
16 day and night. They, they're wanting to finish by the end of the year, the
17 end of this year.
18
19 Bartholomew: Of the calendar year?
20
21 Love: The calendar year, yes. Let's see. Next project is, oh, Union. Union
22 Avenue and Ramp B project. They're having a pre-construction
23 conference May 14th and that's on I-10, where I-10 crosses Union Avenue
24 and also crosses the ramp that gets you on I-10. Next project control
25 number 1101020, pavement preservation project we're going to do on I-
26 25. That's near, what was it, Rincon and anybody going north on I-25
27 when they hit that area near Rincon where it's real, the pavement's real
28 rough. We're going to go out and do a, a pavement preservation, kind of
29 like a patch to try to smooth that out. And that's, the project's letting on
30 May 15th. The Santa Teresa commercial vehicle enforcement facility,
31 that's the motor, new motor trans-station out in Santa Teresa. It's open.
32 It's operating so that project's pretty much complete. The Anthony Drive
33 project, NM-460, that project is continuing. We have some projects that
34 we're doing using safety money. We're, we're doing state, or well district-
35 wide dermal plastic striping on the interstate, both I-10 and I-25 and the
36 letting of that project is May 15th. And I believe that's it as far as ongoing
37 projects in this area.
38
39 Bartholomew: Although it's a little out of our area, I really like the, the new bridge at the
40 *(inaudible)*-Alamosa area.
41
42 Love: Oh, okay. Yes.
43
44 Bartholomew: I had to be, I drove out there.
45
46 Love: Yeah.

1 Bartholomew: A couple weeks ago. It's very nice.
2
3 Love: Yeah. Yeah, that's real nice now that, that's done.
4
5 Bartholomew: Any other questions for Mr. Love on their DOT projects? Okay. Seeing
6 none.
7
8 **8. PUBLIC COMMENT**
9
10 Bartholomew: And seeing no public here for additional public comment.
11
12 **9. ADJOURNMENT (4:35 p.m.)**
13
14 Bartholomew: I guess we're to the point of adjournment if there's a motion for that.
15
16 Knopp: Well, I have a question about the "not in progress yet." It's on page 20.
17 Just a little explanation of what-all's gone on, page 20 the US-70
18 intersection with, with Solano-Three Crosses. Somebody address that a
19 little bit, just ...
20
21 Wray: Mr. Chair that's the pending reconstruction of the Solano-Main, North Main
22 Street intersection that is just north of where the current construction ...
23
24 Bartholomew: Okay.
25
26 Wray: Is taking place. I don't know if DOT wants to have any further comment
27 but that's what that project is.
28
29 Herrera: Sure. Thank you. Mr. Chair the, the design for that project was done as
30 part of the, the North Main project. There were some corrections that
31 needed to be made so we're working on those internally with our
32 consultant right now. We're also working to purchase that piece of
33 property where the big retaining wall is, kind of there on Three Crosses
34 and Spitz so until we acquire that we can't really move forward. We're not
35 scheduled to let that project though until Fiscal Year 2016 in June so that'll
36 be well after this section of North Main is completed.
37
38 Knopp: Thanks.
39
40 Bartholomew: So if you're letting it then it's going to be late 2016, early 2017 before
41 work really gets going on it.
42
43 Herrera: Yeah. The, so when we let it there's normally a couple months after that
44 to get all the awards made and then a couple months after that for them to
45 start so we're looking probably late fall 2016 for construction to start.
46

1 Bartholomew: Any other questions?
2
3 Childress: Mr. Chair I have an update I'd like to express to the Committee. On May
4 12th, next week from 6:00 to 8:00 at the Farm and Ranch Museum we are
5 having a public meeting on the improvement of Baylor Canyon and
6 Dripping Springs Road. There's five miles that's, remains unpaved and
7 there is a proposal using Federal Highway Administration funding to
8 provide funds to Dona Ana County to improve that road section and the
9 meeting will be to gather comments related to the environmental
10 assessment that's been prepared that you can find on our external web
11 page at, for Las Cruces District. So I just wanted to mention that to the
12 group.
13
14 Bartholomew: Thank you. Any other information like to be shared? Mentioning that
15 meeting reminded me is it, it's June 8th correct, when the MPO's going to
16 be doing a presentation to the Las Cruces City Council for the strategic,
17 Short Range Transit Plan design. Is that correct?
18
19 McAdams: That's correct.
20
21 Bartholomew: And it, it's a, a plan that's looking at how we can use a, basically use our
22 existing resources, our existing drivers, our existing buses, and, and
23 realign the routs to better more effectively serve more people with the
24 resources that we have and then there's also a built-in plan, I mean built-in
25 phasing in to add additional services as we're in, in subsequent phases.
26 But I encourage anybody who's around that wants to go to a Council work
27 session on June 8th that they'll be covering the Short Range Transit Plan.
28 Any other comments? Any MPO, anything else the MPO would like to add
29 before we close?
30
31 Wray: Yes Mr. Chair. We are going to be bringing the new MTP, the Transport
32 2040 Update to this body for their recommendation at the June meeting so
33 as many of you as can be here for that meeting as possible, we are still
34 taking comments for the next couple of days although due to the need to
35 have the document ready to present to the BPAC week after next we are
36 going to have to cut off our acceptance of comments probably next
37 Tuesday. We're not really going to be able to make any more changes
38 due to the need to publicly advertise the meeting, the packet so if you
39 have any comments please get them to us quickly.
40
41 Bartholomew: Okay and that's June 4th correct for that?
42
43 Wray: I don't have a calendar in front of me.
44
45 Bartholomew: Yeah well the first Thursday right?
46

1 Wray: Yes.
2
3 Bartholomew: June. Okay.
4
5 Herrera: Mr. Chair. Andrew I had a question about that. I thought the public
6 comment period closed on the 18th of May. Is that right, because it was
7 45 days from last TPAC.
8
9 Wray: I don't recall. I thought it was 30.
10
11 Bartholomew: I, I ...
12
13 Herrera: It was posted 45 I think and so that's ...
14
15 Bartholomew: Yeah.
16
17 Wray: Oh, was it?
18
19 Herrera: Yeah that's what Tom ...
20
21 Wray: Well I guess we'll be taking them all, I guess we'll have to be open to
22 making amendments but please get your comments to us quickly if at all
23 possible because the time is running out.
24
25 Herrera: Okay.
26
27 Bartholomew: Okay. Any other, other comments from Committee members or MPO
28 before we call for an adjournment? Seeing none I'll, I'll take a motion for
29 adjournment.
30
31 Love: So moved.
32
33 Cordova: Seconded.
34
35 Bartholomew: It's been moved and seconded. All in favor, favor please say "aye."
36
37 MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.
38
39 Bartholomew: Meeting's adjourned.
40
41
42
43
44
45
46



Chairperson