MESILLA VALLEY METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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

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

MEMBERS ABSENT: Jack Valencia (SCRTD)
Larry Altamirano (LCPS)
Willie Roman (CLC Transportation)
Rene Molina (DAC Engineering)
Greg Walke (NMSU)
Luis Marmolejo (DAC)
Debbi Lujan (Town of Mesilla)

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Becky Baum, RC Creations, LLC, Recording Secretary

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

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

Love: Harold Love, New Mexico DOT.

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

Herrera: Good afternoon. Jolene Herrera, NMDOT.
Bartholomew: And I'm Mike Bartholomew, City of Las Cruces RoadRUNNER Transit.

Knopp: John Knopp, Town of Mesilla.

Childress: Bill Childress, Bureau of Land Management.

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

Bartholomew: Thank you.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

Wray: No.

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

Love: So moved.

Herrera: Second.

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

MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

3.1 April 2, 2015

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

Herrera: Move to approve.

Love: Second.

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

MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

Bartholomew: It passes. And it looks like we have Mr. Gwynne joining us now as well.
4. PUBLIC COMMENT

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

5. ACTION ITEMS

5.1 Recommend Approval of Amendments to the 2014-2019 Transportation Improvement Program

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

Wray: Thank you Mr. Chair.

Andrew Wray gave his presentation.

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

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

Knopp: So moved.

Childress: I'll second it.

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

MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.


6. DISCUSSION ITEMS

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

Wray: Thank you Mr. Chair.

Andrew Wray gave his presentation.

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

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

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

Wray: Good.

7. COMMITTEE AND STAFF COMMENTS

7.1 City of Las Cruces, Dona Ana County, Town of Mesilla, Las Cruces Public Schools, RoadRUNNER Transit, and SCRTD Project Updates

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

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

Bartholomew: Okay. So you’re looking for comments today on it or ...

Wray: Yes, please, Mr. Chair.

Bartholomew: Okay. What page is it?
Wray: It's on page 47.

Bartholomew: Any comments from the, the City regarding the El Paseo project or the Las Cruces Dam Trail project?

Cordova: Yes, Mr. Chair. The, the El Paseo Safety Project, I’m personally working on that one as the designer. We are scheduled for a June PS&E with the, with the NMDOT and the FHWA to get that one approved to go to bid hopefully in October. We’re on schedule to get that done so we’re anticipating that will happen. The project is making improvements to all of the intersections along the El Paseo corridor from Alameda to University Avenue, mainly improvements like ADA for the sidewalks at the corners that are sight distance on the ped heads, push button placement, some better markings for the crosswalks, things like that generally just to make the intersections more safe. That was identified in the road safety audit that was done as part of a planning project that, that the City did. The Las Cruces Dam Trail project I’m not real familiar with but I know it is ongoing, the design is ongoing now. I’m not sure when they’re ready to, to go to PS&E on that one.

Bartholomew: Okay. Any questions for Mr. Cordova about the City projects? Now, you said that the El Paseo one was the, was the traffic lights part of that project too?

Cordova: There’s just minor improvements to the traffic lights. I think we’re putting in some, some more indicators for no right turns on red to help the pedestrian movements but the signals really aren’t going to be receiving a lot of work other than the pedestrian portion of the signals.

Bartholomew: Okay. Anyone present to speak to the Dona Ana County current projects? Okay. Town of Mesilla, the University Avenue study corridor?

Knopp: Well, unfortunately, I thought Debbie would be here to speak about it and I didn’t talk to her so ...

Bartholomew: Okay.

Wray: Mr. Chair, at the Committee’s indulgence I can give a little bit of an update on that one. We met in the latter part of April for an initial kickoff meeting with staff and actually that one was just with the staff and consultants. We were initially looking at a late May public involve, initial public involvement meeting but the last that I heard the consultant is recommending that we push the first public involvement meeting to June. That’s where things stand currently.
Bartholomew: Okay and is this University Avenue all the way from Main to Avenida that we’re ...

Wray: Yes, both the City and the Town of Mesilla are, are at the table for this project.

Bartholomew: Okay.

Wray: And NMDOT.

Bartholomew: Okay. Any other questions on that project? Las Cruces Public Schools Safe Routes to School coordinator position?

Gregory: Well that one’s still set. We’re still on schedule to keep it going. I know there’s an initial webinar coming up that we need to attend and get more details and then start submitting, you know get our stuff on there, our, our School Board agenda and, and finalize it but it still looks good. We’re, we’re good to go, so.

Bartholomew: Okay. Any other questions on that one? And the RoadRUNNER transit one that, they’re pretty much our, our typical ones that we have every year for operations and support equipment. It’s primarily our formula funding, our 5307 funding and it’s divided between our operating projects and our planned capital projects which is under the support equipment and rolling stock. So if there’s any specific questions about that I can answer those. And with the bus purchase I, I know that the RTD Board, was it last week was it that they met, that they approved the purchase of the, of the buses and I’m assuming the County’s acting as a purchasing agent, correct for ...

Wray: Yes, Mr. Chair.

Bartholomew: For that. So any other questions on the, the TIP projects? If not.

7.2 NMDOT Projects Update

Bartholomew: I’ll move on to updates from NMDOT on their projects.

Herrera: Thank you Mr. Chair. So I’ll go over the, the projects that are currently under development listed there on page 48 of the packet and then I’ll turn it over to Harold to give you the construction updates on ongoing projects. So I’ll just go right down the list: 1100620, the I-10 mill and inlay project that one right now is scheduled to let next spring but it might be moving up. We’re not exactly sure yet but we might be doing a swap of funding with District 2 in Fiscal Year 2015. We’ll definitely have more details on that probably next month for, for you all and we’ll make sure to keep you updated on when that might be moving to.
Bartholomew: Can I just interrupt?

Herrera: Sure.

Bartholomew: Which page were you referring to?

Herrera: I'm on page 48 of the packet.

Bartholomew: Let me flip it over. Okay. Thank you.

Cordova: Question on that Jolene. Where, where more or less is mile marker 146 to 164?

Herrera: It's from the other side of the I-10/I-25 interchange all the way to the Texas state line.

Cordova: Okay. Thank you.

Herrera: The next project: 1100830, the I-10 bridge replacement at Union. The pre-construction meeting for that one is actually next week on the 14th and so the contractor is on board and will be receiving the final timeline for construction on that next week at the pre-con. LC00100, I'll let Harold talk about that in his update. That's the Missouri bridge project. LC00150, the I-10 pavement preservation project, this one is from Jackrabbit interchange to this side of the I-10/I-25 interchange. We're looking at letting that one in August. LC00160, that's Valley Drive. Right now the consultant has finished the Phase A report. They're internally going over with NMDOT staff the alternatives that came out of that. We should be having a public meeting, I don't remember when it's scheduled. I'll look that up and make sure that it gets to MPO staff and I'm sure that some of you are already on the distribution lists for, for that project anyway but I'll make sure that I follow up on that one.

Bartholomew: What stretch of Valley Drive is that?

Herrera: It's from Picacho all the way to Avenida and then actually it also is that little portion of Avenida from Valley Drive to where our I-10 project at the bridge left off so there's just that little stretch that's not done so we're going to go ahead and take care of that, connect the bike facilities and everything there. And then the last two, unfortunately I don't have any updates from our rail section on those. I can try to get something from them and e-mail it out if anybody's interested or has any specific questions that they'd like me to ask.
Bartholomew: With the Union Avenue project you said that, what, when is the actual construction do you think it, is it going to be some, somewhat concurrent, is it going to be overlapping with the Missouri bridge as well?

Herrera: Yes.

Bartholomew: So they'll both be going on at the same time.

Herrera: Yes.

Bartholomew: What about the Valley road? That ...

Herrera: No, that one's out in Fiscal Year 2017.

Bartholomew: Okay.

Herrera: So yeah, we won't have to worry about that but the two bridge projects will be somewhat overlapping.

Bartholomew: I'm just thinking of my poor frustrated bus drivers.

Herrera: I know. Well and the students too at NMSU. We're at work, we're aware of that. We're thinking of that too so we're going to do everything that we can to try to minimize those impacts but unfortunately, I mean its construction so.

Bartholomew: And I, I would note that for our routes that even though you can go under the Missouri bridge now, there's no lanes closed but rather, since we, it's, rather than going back and forth and back and forth we just made a permanent detour that we're crossing on University Avenue and going up Don Roser instead while this is going on so we don't leave our passengers surprised by a sudden change.

Herrera: Thank you and I'll turn it over to Harold to give updates on ongoing projects.

Gwynne: Real quick Jolene I have, I do have a question.

Herrera: Sure.

Gwynne: On the Goathill Road project, can you get us in touch with the people that are working on that?

Herrera: Sure.
Gwynne: We actually have a flood control project that we’re trying to look at in the same area.

Herrera: Okay.

Gwynne: And so we’d like to try to coordinate efforts.

Herrera: Yes. I can certainly get you in touch with the person from our Rail Bureau. Harold, is it you or Aaron that works with the Rail Bureau on those projects?

Love: Actually it’s Maria.

Herrera: Okay so our, the District 1 traffic engineer, Maria Hinojos, is the ...

Gwynne: Okay.

Herrera: Contact so I’ll get you her information and then also for Rob Fine from our Rail Bureau.

Gwynne: Okay. Thank you.

Herrera: Sure.

Love: Okay, ongoing projects: Control number 1100470, that’s US-70/North Main. It’s continued under construction. They’re, they’re working on curb and gutter and putting in light poles and concrete paving.

Bartholomew: I had a question on that.

Love: Yes.

Bartholomew: Is, is the, I, I know there is a design for a bus pullout in there, is that going to be kind of like near the end of the, the paving on that? Are they building that?

Love: I, I believe so. I believe it’s near the end of the project or later on in the project, yes.

Bartholomew: Okay. They keep wanting to see the cutout.

Love: Exactly.

Bartholomew: And then I don’t see it.
Love: I think the, the side of the road that the bus pullout's going to be they, they haven't started final construction on that side so ...

Bartholomew: That's where they're keeping their equipment and materials.

Love: Yes. Exactly.

Bartholomew: Is on that side, yeah. And is it still looking like for a late June finish or more in July?

Love: Last I heard was July, near the end of July.

Bartholomew: End of July. Okay.

Love: The Missouri bridge projects, moving right along. Contractor is working day and night. They, they're wanting to finish by the end of the year, the end of this year.

Bartholomew: Of the calendar year?

Love: The calendar year, yes. Let's see. Next project is, oh, Union. Union Avenue and Ramp B project. They're having a pre-construction conference May 14th and that's on I-10, where I-10 crosses Union Avenue and also crosses the ramp that gets you on I-10. Next project control number 1101020, pavement preservation project we're going to do on I-25. That's near, what was it, Rincon and anybody going north on I-25 when they hit that area near Rincon where it's real, the pavement's real rough. We're going to go out and do a, a pavement preservation, kind of like a patch to try to smooth that out. And that's, the project's letting on May 15th. The Santa Teresa commercial vehicle enforcement facility, that's the motor, new motor trans-station out in Santa Teresa. It's open. It's operating so that project's pretty much complete. The Anthony Drive project, NM-460, that project is continuing. We have some projects that we're doing using safety money. We're, we're doing state, or well district-wide dermal plastic striping on the interstate, both I-10 and I-25 and the letting of that project is May 15th. And I believe that's it as far as ongoing projects in this area.

Bartholomew: Although it's a little out of our area, I really like the, the new bridge at the (inaudible)-Alamosa area.

Love: Oh, okay. Yes.

Bartholomew: I had to be, I drove out there.

Love: Yeah.
Bartholomew: A couple weeks ago. It's very nice.

Love: Yeah. Yeah, that's real nice now that, that's done.

Bartholomew: Any other questions for Mr. Love on their DOT projects? Okay. Seeing none.

8. PUBLIC COMMENT

Bartholomew: And seeing no public here for additional public comment.

9. ADJOURNMENT (4:35 p.m.)

Bartholomew: I guess we're to the point of adjournment if there's a motion for that.

Knopp: Well, I have a question about the "not in progress yet." It's on page 20. Just a little explanation of what-all's gone on, page 20 the US-70 intersection with, with Solano-Three Crosses. Somebody address that a little bit, just ...

Wray: Mr. Chair that's the pending reconstruction of the Solano-Main, North Main Street intersection that is just north of where the current construction ...

Bartholomew: Okay.

Wray: Is taking place. I don't know if DOT wants to have any further comment but that's what that project is.

Herrera: Sure. Thank you. Mr. Chair the, the design for that project was done as part of the, the North Main project. There were some corrections that needed to be made so we're working on those internally with our consultant right now. We're also working to purchase that piece of property where the big retaining wall is, kind of there on Three Crosses and Spitz so until we acquire that we can't really move forward. We're not scheduled to let that project though until Fiscal Year 2016 in June so that'll be well after this section of North Main is completed.

Knopp: Thanks.

Bartholomew: So if you're letting it then it's going to be late 2016, early 2017 before work really gets going on it.

Herrera: Yeah. The, so when we let it there's normally a couple months after that to get all the awards made and then a couple months after that for them to start so we're looking probably late fall 2016 for construction to start.
Bartholomew: Any other questions?

Childress: Mr. Chair I have an update I’d like to express to the Committee. On May 12th, next week from 6:00 to 8:00 at the Farm and Ranch Museum we are having a public meeting on the improvement of Baylor Canyon and Dripping Springs Road. There’s five miles that’s, remains unpaved and there is a proposal using Federal Highway Administration funding to provide funds to Dona Ana County to improve that road section and the meeting will be to gather comments related to the environmental assessment that’s been prepared that you can find on our external web page at, for Las Cruces District. So I just wanted to mention that to the group.

Bartholomew: Thank you. Any other information like to be shared? Mentioning that meeting reminded me is it, it’s June 8th correct, when the MPO’s going to be doing a presentation to the Las Cruces City Council for the strategic, Short Range Transit Plan design. Is that correct?

McAdams: That's correct.

Bartholomew: And it, it's a, a plan that's looking at how we can use a, basically use our existing resources, our existing drivers, our existing buses, and, and realign the routes to better more effectively serve more people with the resources that we have and then there's also a built-in plan, I mean built-in phasing in to add additional services as we're in, in subsequent phases. But I encourage anybody who's around that wants to go to a Council work session on June 8th that they'll be covering the Short Range Transit Plan. Any other comments? Any MPO, anything else the MPO would like to add before we close?

Wray: Yes Mr. Chair. We are going to be bringing the new MTP, the Transport 2040 Update to this body for their recommendation at the June meeting so as many of you as can be here for that meeting as possible, we are still taking comments for the next couple of days although due to the need to have the document ready to present to the BPAC week after next we are going to have to cut off our acceptance of comments probably next Tuesday. We’re not really going to be able to make any more changes due to the need to publicly advertise the meeting, the packet so if you have any comments please get them to us quickly.

Bartholomew: Okay and that’s June 4th correct for that?

Wray: I don’t have a calendar in front of me.

Bartholomew: Yeah well the first Thursday right?
Wray: Yes.

Bartholomew: June. Okay.

Herrera: Mr. Chair. Andrew I had a question about that. I thought the public comment period closed on the 18th of May. Is that right, because it was 45 days from last TPAC.

Wray: I don't recall. I thought it was 30.

Bartholomew: I, I ...

Herrera: It was posted 45 I think and so that's ...

Bartholomew: Yeah.

Wray: Oh, was it?

Herrera: Yeah that's what Tom ...

Wray: Well I guess we'll be taking them all, I guess we'll have to be open to making amendments but please get your comments to us quickly if at all possible because the time is running out.

Herrera: Okay.

Bartholomew: Okay. Any other, other comments from Committee members or MPO before we call for an adjournment? Seeing none I'll, I'll take a motion for adjournment.

Love: So moved.

Cordova: Seconded.

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

MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

Bartholomew: Meeting's adjourned.

[Signature]

Chairperson