

**MESILLA VALLEY METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION  
POLICY COMMITTEE**

The following are minutes for the meeting of the Mesilla Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Policy Committee which was held February 10, 2016 at 1:00 p.m. in Commission Chambers at Doña Ana County Government Building, 845 Motel Blvd., Las Cruces, New Mexico.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Commissioner Leticia Benavidez (DAC)  
Trent Doolittle (NMDOT)  
Trustee Linda Flores (Town of Mesilla)  
Mayor Nora Barraza (Town of Mesilla) (arrived 1:12)  
Councillor Gill Sorg (CLC)  
Commissioner Billy Garrett (DAC)  
Councillor Olga Pedroza (CLC)

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Councillor Jack Eakman (CLC)  
Commissioner Wayne Hancock (DAC)  
Trustee Sam Bernal (Town of Mesilla)

**STAFF PRESENT:** Tom Murphy (MPO staff)  
Andrew Wray (MPO staff)  
Michael McAdams (MPO staff)  
Zach Tarachi (MPO staff)

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Angela Rael, South Central COG  
Andrew Bencomo, Mesilla Valley MPO BPAC Member;  
Board Member, Doña Ana Communities United  
Becky Baum, RC Creations, LLC, Recording Secretary

**1. CALL TO ORDER (1:07 p.m.)**

Sorg: It appears we have a quorum so we'll get the meeting started at 1:07.

**2. CONFLICT OF INTEREST INQUIRY**

Sorg: First order of business is a Conflict of Interest. Is there anybody on the Commission or in the staff that has a conflict of interest on any item on the agenda today?

Pedroza: No.

Garrett: No.

Sorg: Okay.

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3. PUBLIC COMMENT

Sorg: Any public comments? Any member of the public would like to comment?  
Seeing no hands raised.

4. CONSENT AGENDA \*

Sorg: We'll move on. Consent Agenda. Is there a motion to move to approve  
the agenda?

Garrett: So moved.

Pedroza: Second.

Sorg: Okay moved by Commissioner ...

Pedroza: Garrett.

Sorg: Garrett and seconded by Councilor Pedroza. All those, go ahead and  
take a vote here Mr. Murphy.

Murphy: Okay. Member Doolittle.

Doolittle: Yes.

Murphy: Member Flores.

Flores: Yes.

Murphy: Member Pedroza.

Pedroza: Yes.

Murphy: Member Garrett.

Garrett: Yes.

Murphy: Member Barraza.

Barraza: Yes.

Murphy: Mr. Chair.

Sorg: Yes. Okay, passed.

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2 **5. \* APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

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4 **5.1 \*January 13, 2015**

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6 - VOTED ON VIA THE CONSENT AGENDA

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8 **6. ACTION ITEMS**

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10 **6.1 Removal of BPAC Member of Nonfeasance of Office**

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12 **Sorg:** The first Action Item is removal, is 6.1, removal of PA, BPAC member for  
13 nonfeasance of office. Is there a motion?

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15 **Pedroza:** Move to approve.

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17 **Flores:** Seconded.

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19 **Sorg:** Motion and move to approve and second. Could the staff explain?

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21 **Murphy:** Okay.

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23 **Sorg:** This Action Item.

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25 **Flores:** *(inaudible)*

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27 **Murphy:** Mr. Chair, Members of the Committee. Mr. Bentley was a, was appointed  
28 to the, the BPAC last, last summer I believe. He attended one meeting  
29 and has since not been. We have a request from the Chair of the BPAC.  
30 We also had as a discussion item at one of their meetings. Mr. Bentley  
31 has, has been, contact has been attempted, we've received no response.  
32 The, the will of the BPAC was to ask for you, this Committee, to remove  
33 him so that the MPO staff can advertise the position as vacant and place  
34 somebody else on that, in that spot.

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36 **Sorg:** Okay. Thank you Mr. Murphy. Is there any further discussion?

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38 **Pedroza:** I have a question.

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40 **Sorg:** Councilor Pedroza.

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42 **Pedroza:** Thank you. Is there something in the bylaws that says that once you have  
43 missed such and such a number of meetings the question of your  
44 continued membership can be brought up?



1 Wray: We distributed an updated agenda ...  
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3 Sorg: Okay.  
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5 Wray: Middle of last week.  
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7 Sorg: Yeah I just had the first one. I got the new one here. Yeah. So the next  
8 Action Item is 6.2, an Action Item, Resolution 16-03. Move to approve.  
9 I'm waiting.  
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11 Garrett: Could you, could you explain that again?  
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13 Sorg: The Action Item 6.2, a resolution 16-03, a resolution amending the 2016-  
14 2021 Transportation Improvement Program.  
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16 Garrett: So moved.  
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18 Pedroza: Mr. Chair. I don't have that.  
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20 Sorg: Moved, moved by Commissioner Garrett.  
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22 Wray: Could you bring ...  
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24 Sorg: Is there a second?  
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26 Pedroza: Councilor Pedroza ...  
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28 Flores: I'll second it but maybe we should have discussion.  
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30 Sorg: We will have discussion ...  
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32 Pedroza: Thank you very much.  
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34 Sorg: For sure.  
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36 Barraza: Okay, I, I need, Mr. Chair.  
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38 Sorg: Yes.  
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40 Barraza: I have a copy and I don't think Commissioner Garrett has one either so if  
41 you could provide us with some copies please.  
42  
43 Sorg: Yes.  
44  
45 Barraza: Thank you.  
46

1           Sorg:           Okay it's moved by Commissioner Garrett and second by Commissioner,  
2                           by Trustee Torres, Flores. And we'll move on to discussion. We'll have to  
3                           have staff explain this one.  
4

5           Wray:           Thank you Mr. Chair. I'd like to ask the Committee to direct their attention  
6                           to page 57 of their updated packet. This is an amendment that's been  
7                           requested by RoadRUNNER Transit staff. This is the result of the close  
8                           out of the, the past federal fiscal year. The, the roll over money was made  
9                           available and the request is to move that money over from the now past  
10                          federal fiscal year 2015 to the current federal fiscal year of 2016. The, the  
11                          particular project is for support and rolling stock. The amount is new FTA  
12                          5307 amount is \$1,038,719 and the new local match amount is \$127,021.  
13                          And I'll stand now for any questions.  
14

15          Barraza:        Mr. Chair.

16  
17          Sorg:           Yes. Trustee Flores, uh, Trustee Barraza.  
18

19          Barraza:        I just have a question. I see that the amendment is for the RoadRUNNER  
20                          Transit program and I was just curious how did you go about in choosing  
21                          this project versus other projects?  
22

23          Wray:           This was requested by their staff. The, the process is that the agencies  
24                          initiate their own amendments to bring forward, so RoadRUNNER staff  
25                          requested that this amendment proceed forward.  
26

27          Barraza:        Okay. And Mr. Chair if I may?  
28

29          Sorg:           Sure.  
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31          Barraza:        Where there any other entities that knew, I guess I probably need to ask  
32                          when you say "Unobligated federal funds" is it a pool of money that's in  
33                          there and they're not obligated and that way different programs can ask for  
34                          it?  
35

36          Wray:           Mr. Chair, Mayor Barraza. No it is not. These monies were supposed to  
37                          have been obligated for this particular project for RoadRUNNER Transit in  
38                          2015, they were not obligated in time because the wheels of the Federal  
39                          Government grind slowly, so this is, this is money that is not up for grabs  
40                          for anybody. It is, it's for RoadRUNNER Transit.  
41

42          Barraza:        Mr. Chair thank you. Thank you Andy.  
43

44          Sorg:           Thank you Andrew. And may the record correct my referring to Mayor  
45                          Barraza as Mayor instead of Trustee. Thank you. Any other comments or  
46                          questions on this resolution? If not we'll take a vote.

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Wray: Member Doolittle.

Doolittle: Yes.

Wray: Member Flores.

Flores: Yes.

Wray: Member Pedroza.

Pedroza: Yes.

Wray: Member Garrett.

Garrett: Yes.

Wray: Member Barraza.

Barraza: Yes.

Wray: Member Benavidez.

Benavidez: Yes.

Wray: Mr. Chair.

Sorg: Yes.

**7. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

**7.1 Committee Training**

Sorg: Next item on the agenda is on Discussion for Committee Training, 7.1. Can, take, take it over Mr. Murphy.

Murphy: Thank you Mr. Chair. At last month's meeting the Committee, the Committee had asked staff to come back with a report on, on coordination between the MPO and the, and the RTPO and, as well as the El Paso MPO. So Mr. McAdams has put together a presentation that kind of, kind of lays out the rules of, and all of the work products of the various transportation planning agencies. We also have in the audience Ms. Angela Rael who is the Planning Program Manager for the South Central Council of Governments. And with that I'm gonna turn you over to Mr. McAdams.

1 Sorg: Thank you.

2  
3 McAdams: Thank you Mr. Chair and Members of the Committee. This is by, this is  
4 maybe a little dry but I hope you'll stay with me. But it's very important I  
5 think. If you look at, here are all, the state is divided into RTPOs and  
6 MPOs and we'll discuss that later, and the roles of both, and where they  
7 cooperate together too, or what is the means of cooperation. The  
8 transportation planning process of New Mexico is, is really specified by  
9 federal law and requires states to carry a continuing cooperative and  
10 comprehensive statewide planning that considers all modes of  
11 transportation and provides for consideration and implementation of  
12 projects, strategies, and services. Transportation planning's a cooperative  
13 process designed to foster involvement by all users of this system, such  
14 as community, a business community, community groups, environmental  
15 organizations, the public, the traveling public, freight operators, and also  
16 public transportation providers too as well. If you look at, in New Mexico  
17 the process of, is conducted jointly by the NMDOT, MPOs, the RTPOs,  
18 and public transit operators. It involves a lot of things you're already  
19 aware we do already. Both organizations do is monitoring existing  
20 situations, forecasting population and employment, and land use along  
21 major corridors, identifying current and projected future transportation  
22 problems, analyzing through detailed studies like you know the Missouri  
23 and University, developing long-range plans, we just got through, and of  
24 course short-range plans like the transit development, short-range transit  
25 plan. If you look at how many MPOs we have; we have one, two, three,  
26 four, five MPOs. The El Paso Metropolitan Organization, the Farmington  
27 MPO, the Mesilla Valley MPO, the Mid-Region MPO, and the Santa Fe  
28 MPO. What do they do?

29 And all these work items should be very familiar with you as we, we  
30 go through them every couple of years right. The MTP we just completed.  
31 We have a plan that we do public participation plan we have to do every  
32 five years. The Title VI plan is for antidiscrimination and for addressing  
33 discrimination. The transportation system performance measures and  
34 targets. The unified work, planning work program we'll be doing this year.  
35 The, the TIP which we do every year. We do this every two years and we  
36 update it often. And the traffic counts that we do daily almost to try to  
37 show traffic flow maps and for analyzing relative to do, for this as far as  
38 what we do the, the TAZ, the, the transportation analysis zones and  
39 update for the, the statewide travel demand model. And some important  
40 but not, you know I guess you know some more but not equally important  
41 is quarterly reports. The annual list of obligated projects where we, the  
42 projects we're gonna do this year. The annual performance and  
43 expenditure report every, every 10 years or 14 years out we look at. The  
44 smoothed urbanized area based on the density, that are contiguous  
45 density. And then also we look at almost yearly the functional, the  
46 functional classification are according to schedules. This with the, the 12



1 is TMA but it really doesn't apply to us too much because we're looking at  
2 congestion management process and that's really Albuquerque and El  
3 Paso area. And also we do the FHWA New Mexico certification process  
4 and documentation and also the FTA Regional Five certification  
5 documentation.

6 If you look at the internal project, you're part of the internal structure  
7 here too and we look at several major put, keys that, the keyboards of  
8 course, the Policy Committee, and of, made up of local elective leaders  
9 and appropriate state and local officials and the Policy Boards for the  
10 MPO serving the area designated as a transportation management for the  
11 MRMPO and also the EPMP as well. So they're kind of sped off a little  
12 bit different. And the MPO boundaries are really specified, one as a  
13 contained urbanized area but also where, where we think in 20 years we'll  
14 be growing, so it's always larger than, than the metropolitan areas. The  
15 boundaries are specified every 10 years as far as the MPO planning areas  
16 and the urbanized areas as well. And we, we smooth the areas around as  
17 well.

18 Here is again all the, the MPO, the state RTPOs and the MPOs,  
19 and you noticed that the, where we're located and look at specifically the  
20 area where we're in. And so sort of zooming in we can see that Doña Ana  
21 County is contained really has three people, three boards they have to  
22 answer to, well more than that but in transportation, the El Paso area  
23 which is one MPO, our MPO, the Mesilla Valley MPO, then also the, the  
24 County is also involved in the South Central RTPO which includes Otero  
25 and Socorro and Doña Ana. And I'll go a little bit more specifically in  
26 looking at the RTPOs. Angela correct me if you would like to chime in.  
27 The RTPOs are federally designated forums for cooperative planning for a  
28 population of 50,000 or fewer people and there are seven RTPOs in the  
29 state; the Mid-Region, the Northeast, Northeast, Northern Pueblos, the  
30 Northern regional, the South Central Regional Transportation Planning  
31 Authority Organization which contains Doña Ana County, Otero,  
32 Southeast Regional Transportation Planning Organization, and the  
33 Southwest Regional Transportation Organization. All the state is  
34 contained, or divided in these, the RTPOs. The, the RTPOs are  
35 consistent with Federal Surface Transportation law. The RTPOs have  
36 been established and designated by NMDOT. They're different from  
37 MPOs. MPOs are designated by the Federal Government, by the  
38 urbanized area and then, they cooperate with the states or the, where  
39 MPOs are kind of autonomous and we'll explain that later, where, where  
40 RTPOs are, are subject to, to the state and they're coordinated through  
41 the state directly. So the DOT is their, forward, well they're designated by  
42 the DOT to enhance planning, coordination, and implementation of  
43 statewide, strategic long-range transportation plans and TIP programs,  
44 TIPs as well, with the emphasis on addressing the needs of non-  
45 metropolitan areas of the state, rural areas, all right, outside the urbanized  
46 areas, but not, well outside the MPOs as well.

1 And if you look at RTPOs, their core responsibilities are to develop  
2 and maintain in cooperation with the state, regional long-range plans,  
3 develop regional transportation improvement program recommendations,  
4 or the RTIPR for consideration by the state. See the recommendation,  
5 they're, they're different from our TIP. The RTIPR is a recommendation to  
6 the state. The state can either decide they will approve it and put it in the,  
7 in the STIP or they can decide to reject it too. So when we put our things  
8 is in the STIP is considered, is not changed, it will, a (*inaudible*) that, these  
9 regulations. So we foster, it's also to foster the coordination we, our local  
10 planning, land use, and economic development plans of course. The  
11 RTPOs to provide technical assistance to local officials, provide training to  
12 Board and Commissions like I'm doing today but it's basically a national  
13 multistate and state policies and planning development.

14 If you look at also the RTPOs are providing a forum for public  
15 participation and the statewide and regional transportation planning  
16 process. Consider and share plans and programs with neighboring, with  
17 other regional organizations including MPOs and travel organization.  
18 Maintain an RTPO website which shows you know the current documents  
19 like we do in our website as well. Conduct other duties as necessary to  
20 support and enhance the regional statewide planning process. Maintain in  
21 an organized fashion all applicable records per the state achieving  
22 records, all the well, according to FHWA and FTA Region VI regulations.

23 This is, this also part of the, this, the RTP, RTIPR process is  
24 looking at each RTPOs individual agents to (*inaudible*) something called  
25 the Project Feasibility Form and this is to provide it, a way to open the  
26 dialogue between the MD, the, the NMDOT districts and the local  
27 governments regarding projects for possible inclusion in the RTIPR and  
28 the STIP. The RTO member organizations complete and, and submit the  
29 RTP, the PFFs to the RTPO planning program manager and the  
30 respective NMDOT district technical support and appropriate GTE, G  
31 liaison. The following the RTPO established submittal deadlines,  
32 meetings are held and you know really discussion about the  
33 appropriateness and the feasibility of this project with the MPO district.

34 This is really important too, how do coordinate, there is coordination  
35 between the MPOs and RTPOs. The NMDOT coordinates with the MPOs  
36 and the RTPOs through the following; cooperative agreements; so they  
37 have to have a cooperative agreement says we agree these things also  
38 the membership and abide by the, by rules and regulations that were set  
39 by, for by the state and by the federal government. And the CAs delineate  
40 the responsibility each organization carry out the task contained work  
41 program, so we have to have a, a work program, you know our work  
42 program, our planning work program and also the RTPOs do as well. And  
43 the MPOs are required to submit every two years, we're doing right now  
44 and the RTPOs are also required to submit a two-year regional program.  
45 In addition this goes in a statewide work planning work program to the  
46 New Mexico Division of Federal Highway and also Region VI of the FTA.

1 The PWP includes all the RTR, the MPO and RTPO work programs as  
2 part of the submittal package, so they are submitted all to the H, FHWA  
3 and the FTA. Any questions? And I have something to hand out. I came  
4 with goodies. This is the STIP, I mean not the RTIPR for the South  
5 Central Regional Transportation I mean, I mean the South Central  
6 Regional Transportation Planning Authority Organization. Get, get my  
7 acronyms confused. You can see this is what, these are not, these are  
8 not, like they're not like the TIP, these are recommended for approval by  
9 the state. So the state can say we don't have enough money or we don't  
10 think it's appropriate at this time of year, but it's not like our TIP which we  
11 approve it, it becomes part of the STIP, all right. And of course we check  
12 as a staff and also people with DOT and other organizations attribute  
13 where there's money available for it. So I'm standing now for questions.  
14

15 **Sorg:** Any questions from the Commission? Commissioner Garrett.

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17 **Garrett:** Thank you. Appreciate the presentation.

18  
19 **McAdams:** Oh thank you.

20  
21 **Garrett:** Could you go back to the slide that shows the close up of the, Doña Ana  
22 County and ...

23  
24 **McAdams:** Okay.

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26 **Garrett:** And the map. Yeah right there.

27  
28 **McAdams:** All right.

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30 **Garrett:** I brought up the issue of coordination at the last meeting ...

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32 **McAdams:** Right.

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34 **Garrett:** Because there are two areas and projects that Doña Ana County and I  
35 think City of Las Cruces, Mesilla, we all have a vested interest in, and that  
36 has to do with development along the border and it also has to do with our  
37 connection with the Spaceport. And I wanted to look at this because I've  
38 never really paid a lot of attention to the boundaries with the El Paso  
39 MPO, to what degree, are there portions of a connection from Santa  
40 Teresa to 404 that go outside of the MPO boundaries? You know Tom  
41 we've talked about ...

42  
43 **McAdams:** Yeah.

44  
45 **Garrett:** An alignment that would run along the escarpment and then actually  
46 that's, that's a potential beginning of a West Mesa connection. I'm just

1 curious about where, if, if you've got a portion of a road system that's in  
2 two MPOs and an R, RPO how does that get anchored? Who, who works  
3 on that?

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5 Murphy: Mr. Chair, Member Garrett. In the case of New Mexico 404 that's, the,  
6 the, it's pretty much entirely within the El Paso planning area.

7  
8 Garrett: Okay so even if portions of it go outside it's, it's going to be looked at as ...  
9

10 Murphy: I mean if, if portions went into different things we would, we would  
11 coordinate it, but in this specific instance and, I, it is entirely contained in  
12 the El Paso planning boundaries.  
13

14 Garrett: Okay. So let's, let's work with that as a, as a working assumption. It  
15 seems to me that it's important to know where projects like a connection  
16 between Santa Teresa and Chaparral and, and connecting in with, with I-  
17 10 as, as part of New Mexico, where that project would sit in I guess the  
18 work program and the STIP for the El Paso MPO. Do we know if it's on  
19 their STIP? Okay.  
20

21 Murphy: Mr. Doolittle indicate, indicates no.  
22

23 Garrett: Okay. So, so, the question that, I mean it's great that this is all set up to  
24 promote coordination and, and, and cooperation and yet this is something  
25 that's an important issue, we've been talking about it for several years and  
26 I think part of it may be that we don't know what the process is to actually  
27 get these projects into the system and it's one thing if, if we're, you know  
28 we're simply sort of muddling around in the dark, but it's another if there's  
29 real opposition. And, and, and so we need to sort out what it is. Do we  
30 need to fill out a Project Feasibility Form and write a letter and submit it to  
31 the El Paso MPO and say "We would really appreciate it if you would work  
32 on this." Because as I understand your presentation that would then  
33 trigger at some point or is that just for the RPOs, or the, yeah the, the  
34 RTPO?  
35

36 McAdams: Yeah the RTPPO for the PFF is for ...  
37

38 Garrett: That's when you get into consultation.  
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40 McAdams: Right.  
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42 Garrett: Okay so ...  
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44 McAdams: But I think ...  
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46 Garrett: We could do this and nothing would happen necessarily.

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Murphy:

Mr., Mr. Chair, Member Garrett. The MPO could work within the framework of the, of the PFF. In this instance I am unsure how it's, NM-404 and I-10 I believe are you know are state owned facilities so I'm, I'm unclear whether the, the County could submit, submit one, a project on those facilities or do they need to, or does County staff need to work with DOT staff in order to have that project submitted, but generally those are, are DOT facilities so you would expect that the, the origin would come from, from their staff. If it was you know, if the County felt strongly enough about it I think that the County staff would need to engage the DOT on getting that project and perhaps the County could do a PFF on that. Mr. Doolittle if you could assist me on, on that, that process.

Doolittle:

Mr. Chair if I may. I, I believe, we're currently working on trying to get the contract completed with Molzen for the Phase B study for the West Mesa Corridor, or the West Mesa Study and I believe that they're supposed to work on giving a presentation at the April Policy Board meeting to bring us up to speed on what happened with the Phase 1, or the Phase A study. Maybe what we can do as part of that is I can be sure to have Jolene here so that we can talk through that process. I'm not as familiar with it as Jolene would be, but maybe when Molzen gives us an update on what happened with that initial study we can have Jolene also present on where the El Paso MPO sits with that, what we need to do to coordinate that process, but I think having that update from Mozlen would be the first step.

Garrett:

Thank you. Would, would it be possible for us to know what the scope is earlier than April? You know one of the things that, that's interesting about the transportation planning is it, it's very regimented and it just feels like if you miss a, you know the, the window to get something on the work plan or you miss a window to get something on a project list, you're out of luck for a long time. And, and you know part of what we've been asking for is an evaluation of the feasibility and the implications of having that loop instead of just going straight up the West Mesa. And, and, a, I, I'd like to know whether it's in the study that they're working on because if it's not then, then the question is "Well how do we get an amendment or how do we get another study or whatever." I mean we're trying to work within a very regimented bureaucratic system and, and I don't think we've been clear about what the steps are we need to do in order to, to move forward on, on that. But what I'm, what I'm hearing is that, that we, the County should initiate some kind of, I mean maybe it's a matter for County staff to talk with, look at the El, El Paso MPO planning and their work plan and, and all those kinds of things and then out of that figure out if there's something missing that has to do with the south, southern part of the, of the County. And then maybe the, this MPO could weigh in with a letter of support or something. I mean it, these are, these, these, these boundaries are, are very difficult to work with because they are, they seem

1 to be held as if there, these are silos and it's just really hard for us to know  
2 how we can get the planning and eventually the development that we  
3 need.

4  
5 McAdams: Okay.

6  
7 Garrett: That's one, that's part one. I don't want to dominate, but I'm, I'm really  
8 concerned with this and I'm looking for clarity. Part of what I'm looking for  
9 is direction on what to do. The other one is at the other end of the County,  
10 and that has to do with the Spaceport. How do we get an interchange  
11 plan on somebody's list? Because it's outside the MPO boundary. Do we  
12 have to initiate the Project Feasibility Form in order to get, okay well, then  
13 is that something that we can ask staff to do?  
14

15 Murphy: That would be a, a function of the County staff to, to submit that.

16  
17 Pedroza: Mr. Chair.

18  
19 Sorg: Okay. Thank you. Member Pedroza.

20  
21 Pedroza: Thank you very much. I have a, a somewhat related question but maybe  
22 it's a little bit easier. If you look on the map that we have up right now, you  
23 see Doña Ana County is in that greenish/blue.  
24

25 McAdams: Yeah.

26  
27 Pedroza: But, a, the boundaries for the MPO are much smaller than the entire  
28 County.  
29

30 McAdams: Yes, because that's ...  
31

32 Pedroza: So who do, who does anything outside of that area?  
33

34 McAdams: The RTPO goes everything outside of the, both the MPOs. They're the  
35 one, like we're discussing (*inaudible*) projects outside the area, they would  
36 go to the RTPO. They are not, we are not contained with the RTPO, they  
37 are separate distinct boundaries. You know that's on purpose so we don't,  
38 we don't mess around with other people's business (*inaudible*).  
39

40 Pedroza: So are you saying that in order to answer Commissioner Garrett's  
41 question we have to go and present it to the RTPO?  
42

43 McAdams: Exactly.  
44

45 Pedroza: To ...  
46

McAdams: Exactly. We can issue like a letter of support of course, say we support it but we can't, it, it should be initiated in the RTPO all right.

Pedroza: Do we know who that is?

Sorg: Well I was going to ask if maybe ...

Pedroza: Okay.

Sorg: Commissioner Pedroza. What representation from Doña Ana County is there on the RTPO?

Rael: Mr. Chair and, and Members of your Committee. We have ...

Sorg: Your name please.

Rael: I'm sorry. I'm Angela Rael. I'm the Regional Transportation Coordinator for the South Central RTPO.

Sorg: Okay. Thank you. Welcome.

Rael: You're welcome. Thank you for having me. Thank you Tom for inviting me. To try to provide some clarity we have, the boundaries as you can see, we generally go up to I guess I would say a little north of Radium Springs, right, right about there and then you know we have an ... to correct you we have ...

Pedroza: We meaning who?

Rael: Sierra County, Socorro County, and portions of Doña Ana County. We have someone who sits on our, our Policy and Technical Assistance Committee from the area of Hatch. We, he never shows up and we've ...

Pedroza: Oh.

Rael: Tried to get him to go. But we, years ago had somebody, Robert Armijo, I believe he's still employed with the County, he attended some meetings for our RTPO but that's been years ago. We haven't seen anybody at all from Doña Ana County. And so part of our responsibilities is yes to communicate with our local government agencies and, and such, however, it's, we, we are employ, I'm the single employee of the South Central RTPO, so it's just me covering all those three counties and the areas that you see. So it's difficult for me to make monthly phone calls, weekly phone calls to ever municipality within my region to say "Do you have a project? Do you have a list? Can you get me a Project Feasibility Form?" So I, I rely on the members of my committee who come and, and

1 represent themselves at our quarterly meetings to come with ideas from  
2 their local governments and their elected officials and so they're  
3 Commissioners and Mayors, so much as yourselves, who come in and  
4 say "This is what my Commission's telling me. This is what my project  
5 manager's are telling me. This is what my you know County Manager is  
6 telling me." Things like that. So we can make those contacts and  
7 connections and then we're gladly, I just was on the phone all the way  
8 over here with people from City of Socorro and Socorro County because  
9 they have projects that are in the STIP and so those kinds of things, we're  
10 glad to provide that technical assistance, however it's next to impossible to  
11 try to pull those projects from you guys unless we even know that they're,  
12 they're happening so.

13  
14 Sorg: I understand. So, therefore, as Mr. Murphy referred to it, it's up to the  
15 Doña Ana County to provide that impetus for this exchange on I-25 then?  
16

17 Rael: Definitely. And I'll gladly, I'd love for somebody from Doña Ana County to  
18 identify some, someone, I would gladly add them onto our, onto our  
19 committee, give them a seat at the table to, to come and bring those  
20 projects to us. Unlike the MPO we don't have a, a pot of money that  
21 would identify projects and be able to, to fund those within our  
22 organization you know, so we do have to go through the Project Feasibility  
23 Forms.  
24

25 Sorg: Sure.

26  
27 Rael: So we get to sit ...  
28

29 Sorg: Understand.  
30

31 Rael: With DOT, which is great and it's been a, a good practice so far. This was  
32 our first year that it was a requirement. So any other projects that you see  
33 on your handout that were on the RTIPR, those projects have all been  
34 vetted out through a feasibility meeting with the DOT and that's how they,  
35 they got on there. And so, I, I know that when you do an application of  
36 course you all know it's based on some points, on you get points ...  
37

38 Sorg: Yeah, I understand.  
39

40 Rael: *(inaudible)* planning. So a lot of planning, I know that there was made  
41 mention of the statewide long-range plans that each of the MPOs and the  
42 RTPOs did and so we have mentioned in my, in my, my regional long-  
43 range plan have made mention of you know the, the importance of access  
44 to Spaceport and things like that, although in ours I think it's different than  
45 yours. We don't identify specific projects. We just try to identify the needs  
46 of our region and incorporate dialogue and some, and some you know



1 verification and clarification about what is needed in our area. So I, it's,  
2 there's a, made mention extensively about rural transportation and you  
3 know the importance of it, the need of it, so that if somebody's making an  
4 application for a transit program maybe like the RTPPO, they can refer to  
5 our plan as something that, that shows a need for their area, so.  
6

7 Sorg: Okay. Thank you.  
8

9 Rael: You're welcome. Any other questions?  
10

11 Sorg: I have one of more a, a general question concerning the TIP and the  
12 STIP. Can the state put a project on the STIP that is not on a local TIP  
13 list?  
14

15 Murphy: Mr. Chair. The, outside of an MPO boundary the state can, can put any  
16 project they're working on onto the STIP subject to the Transportation  
17 Commission approval. Within the ...  
18

19 Sorg: So they can initiate a new project that the MPO or RTPPO doesn't initiate?  
20

21 Murphy: They can, they can, in the RTPPO areas they can do that.  
22

23 Sorg: They can do it in the RTPPO.  
24

25 Murphy: Within an MPO area they must first get approval of the TIP.  
26

27 Sorg: From the MPO.  
28

29 Murphy: In order for, to include it on ...  
30

31 Sorg: Okay.  
32

33 Murphy: The STIP.  
34

35 Sorg: Okay, that's good to know.  
36

37 Pedroza: One more question.  
38

39 Sorg: Any more questions? Pedroza.  
40

41 Pedroza: You mentioned the Transportation Commission, are they a part of, who  
42 are they a part of or, or are they separate entity or?  
43

44 Murphy: Mr. Chair, Member Pedroza. The Transportation Commission is a, a body  
45 of six members appointed by the Governor to oversee the, to oversee the  
46 New Mexico Department of Transportation.

1  
2 Pedroza: Excuse me. Are they, do they sit in Santa Fe or do you know when they  
3 meet?  
4  
5 Murphy: They meet ...  
6  
7 Pedroza: How are they formed, etc.?  
8  
9 Murphy: A, again they're appointed, appointed by the Governor. They do meet on  
10 a monthly basis. They do rotate their meetings throughout the state,  
11 month-by-month. Usually they're in District 1 in December and May ...  
12  
13 Doolittle: It really depends on the other schedules but typically it's December and  
14 then right around, like for instance this year it's during the Engineering  
15 Conference that we have at the university's convention center.  
16  
17 Murphy: That's usually in April.  
18  
19 Doolittle: Right.  
20  
21 Pedroza: Okay. And where is District 1? Oh is this District 1?  
22  
23 Doolittle: Yes. And, and just to clarify Mr. Chair if I may, our Commissioner for  
24 District 1 is Dr. Ken White from the university.  
25  
26 Pedroza: That's good to know. Thank you.  
27  
28 Sorg: Any other comments or questions?  
29  
30 Benavidez: Mr. Chair.  
31  
32 Sorg: Sure, Commissioner Benavidez.  
33  
34 Benavidez: Thank you. I needed to ask a question to Ms. Rael. It's regarding the  
35 organization that you represent is the, what again, I'm sorry.  
36  
37 Rael: Mr. Chair and Members of the Board. It's the South Central RTPD. So on  
38 the map it's the like teal area that surrounds the, the green.  
39  
40 Benavidez: And it's not the Regional Planning Organization policy committee, that's a  
41 different organization? Because I'm having, I'm, I see that Mr. Robert  
42 Armijo is a, sits on, sits in on that organization so it's not the same one.  
43  
44 Rael: Yeah, no it's definitely the same on. I have been in this position for a little  
45 over a year, maybe about a year and a half. The, the program manager  
46 before me was Tony Microbert, I think he was there two or three years. I

1 helped him you know in the planning of those meetings and I don't know  
2 that I've ever met Mr. Armijo so I know that he hasn't been in attendance  
3 in, in several years.  
4

5 Benavidez: Okay so when's the next meeting so I can inform Mr. Armijo to, to be  
6 present at the next meeting.  
7

8 Rael: Okay, we have scheduled it for March 15th.

9  
10 Benavidez: March 15th, at what time?

11  
12 Rael: At 10:30 a.m. in Elephant Butte.

13  
14 Benavidez: Okay.

15  
16 Rael: I will gladly forward you all the information that I have out for that and  
17 make sure that you get that information.  
18

19 Benavidez: Great. Thank you. Because I'm an alternate to that organization.  
20

21 Rael: Okay.  
22

23 Benavidez: So, yeah just send me that information please.  
24

25 Rael: I definitely will. I'll get it to you if I get back to my office in time today.  
26

27 Benavidez: Great.  
28

29 Rael: Thank you.  
30

31 Benavidez: Thank you very much.  
32

33 Rael: Thank you.  
34

35 Benavidez: That's, that's all Mr. Chair.  
36

37 Sorg: Thank you. Then we have removed a, the next discussion item, the 7.2  
38 on Doña Ana.  
39

40 Doolittle: Mr. Chair.  
41

42 Sorg: Yes Mr. Doolittle.  
43

44 Doolittle: I'm sorry, real quickly before we move on from that subject.  
45

46 Sorg: Doolittle.

1  
2 Doolittle: If I may, don't forget that the County also has representation on the El  
3 Paso MPO in the same capacity.

4  
5 Sorg: Yeah, we know.

6  
7 Doolittle: So Dr. Garcia and then through all of their technical committees, there's  
8 Doña Ana County staff that sit in on those so that, that's the coordination  
9 that we have with that group as well. Thank you.

10  
11 Sorg: That's right. Very good to point that out.

12  
13 **7.2 Viva Doña Ana! Presentation**

14  
15 - REMOVED FROM AGENDA

16  
17  
18 **8. COMMITTEE AND STAFF COMMENTS**

19 Sorg: So therefore we will go onto Committee and Staff Comments. Mayor  
20 Barraza.

21  
22 Barraza: Mr. Chair just to inform staff also, Trustee Sam Bernal will no longer be on  
23 the MPO. He did not run for re-election. Our elections are March 1st so  
24 once we do our reorganization we will appoint another member from the  
25 Town of Mesilla. And I think Trustee Bernal served, I know at least six  
26 years on the MPO and if not longer I think. So I just wanted to recognize  
27 him. Thank you.

28  
29 Sorg: Thank you Mayor. All right, any more public comments? Commissioner,  
30 Commissioner Garrett.

31  
32 Garrett: Thanks, just as a follow-up to that, would it be appropriate for us to  
33 approve a resolution appreciate, of appreciation for Trustee Bernal's  
34 service? That could be developed and provided to us at our next meeting.

35  
36 Sorg: Very good. Agree.

37  
38 Murphy: Mr., Mr. Chair, Member Garrett. We could do that. Traditionally we've,  
39 we've presented the member a plaque commemorating their service, but  
40 we've, we've not done a full, a resolution in the past, but ...

41  
42 Garrett: Whatever.

43  
44 Sorg: A plaque sounds good.

45  
46 Murphy: The committee's preference.

1  
2 Garrett: No, plaque is, is nice too. I mean maybe a plaque and a letter that goes  
3 with it. I don't know.

4  
5 Sorg: Very good.

6  
7 Barraza: That is much appreciated. Thank you.

8  
9 Sorg: Very good Mayor. Any other comments from Commission? Mr. Doolittle  
10 do you have any reports on your projects?

11  
12 Doolittle: Mr. Chair honestly I, since it wasn't on the agenda I failed to give my guys  
13 notice but I, I can give you some real quick updates on the projects that  
14 we have in the area.

15  
16 Sorg: Greatly appreciated.

17  
18 Doolittle: I'll, I'll make it real brief.

19  
20 Sorg: Please.

21  
22 Doolittle: For the most part the North Main project is finished. I know that we have a  
23 few very small clean up repair punch list items to do but for the most part  
24 we are finished.

25 The Missouri bridge, I know originally we were a little bit ahead of  
26 schedule, right now we are about right on schedule for an April  
27 completion. That, that project's still continues to, to move along very well  
28 even though we had a few small setbacks.

29 The Union bridge project which is replacing the four bridges right at  
30 the I-10/Union/University area, that one is currently a little bit ahead of  
31 schedule, we're probably looking at a May completion. Again that's  
32 working very well even with you know the University being on one side  
33 and you know the apartments and some of those things on the south side,  
34 I think our contractor has done a really good job coordinating with our  
35 media outlets to get those closures out. So it, it's moving along very well.

36 Those of you that travel on I-10 will have noticed that we, we've  
37 been doing some pavement preservation on the west side of town with  
38 Mountain States, they're expected to finish all of the paving except for the,  
39 the seal coat which requires a little bit warmer temperature. All of the  
40 paving will be completed around the 16th or 17th of this month. Those  
41 guys are actually way ahead of schedule and they do really good work for  
42 us. With that being said, they're also the contractor to replace the hot mix  
43 on the six-lane section between Las Cruces and the Texas state line. And  
44 just to clarify, you know a lot of people have asked you know why are we  
45 already out there when we just did the six-lane a few years ago. That six-  
46 lane all it did was added a new pavement, a new roadway to the inside, so

1 this project is going to mill and replace the old asphalt on the two lanes  
2 that we didn't do anything at all. And then we'll do one, one quick seal  
3 coat on that one. They're expected to start the Monday after the Pope's  
4 visit. They actually wanted to start on the 17th, the day he was here, and  
5 we very forcefully told them "No way." So they'll start on the Monday  
6 following that. They're expecting that project to take about 14 weeks for  
7 total completion, so I'll keep you in the loop on that. But you may want to  
8 avoid that area if you can. They're gonna adjust their closures based on  
9 directional traffic for the eastbound lanes, they're gonna work, they're  
10 gonna try to work from about 10:00 until eight in the evening. For the  
11 westbound lanes basically coming from El Paso to Las Cruces they're  
12 gonna work from two o'clock in the morning until about 10:00 in the, until  
13 about 10:00 in the morning and then we'll adjust those depending on how  
14 the traffic flows. For the most part that's the, the major projects in this  
15 area. I'll do, I'll do a better job. We have some studies coming up, we, for  
16 instance the US-70 between Three Crosses and the I-25. We're doing a  
17 study on the NM-404 pass to determine you know do we need a four-lane  
18 improve the intersection specifically at I-10. We've been waiting on notice  
19 to proceed with those consultants and I don't have those yet. As soon as  
20 we get that I'll be able to give you a better idea of the schedule for those  
21 studies. I, I guess with that being said, Tom one thing I would ask is I  
22 know you and, and I and Andrew have had discussions, if you wouldn't  
23 mind on the discussion topics just put NMDOT update, don't necessarily  
24 list items specific to that update, but that'll be a good reminder for me to  
25 come in with, with more details for you all.

26  
27 Sorg: Very good. Commissioner Pedroza.

28  
29 Pedroza: Thank you Mr. Chair. Trent is there any kind of a document or any kind of  
30 maybe a letter that would advise the, the City Streets and Transportation  
31 Department that in fact you have finished, when, when you have finished  
32 the Missouri bridge so that then they can say "Okay now the street again  
33 becomes the jurisdiction of the City and then I can start bugging them  
34 about ..." I didn't mean that. I never do that. About the, the changes that  
35 I think might be needed.

36  
37 Doolittle: Mr. Chair. That's, we actually have a final inspection on all of our projects  
38 and because a lot of the work that was included on that one is City work,  
39 they will be in, invited to that final inspection. Once all of the punch list  
40 items are completed there is a final letter of acceptance that goes to the  
41 contractor and the City is copied on that letter as well. At that point ...

42  
43 Pedroza: *(inaudible)* is, how 'bout me?

44  
45 Doolittle: I, I will be sure to get you a copy of that letter.

46

1 Pedroza: Thank you very much.

2  
3 Sorg: Okay, thank you Ms. Pedroza.

4  
5 **9. PUBLIC COMMENT**

6  
7 - NO PUBLIC.

8  
9 **10. ADJOURNMENT (1:55 p.m.)**

10  
11 Sorg: So if there's no more business, I'll entertain a motion to adjourn.

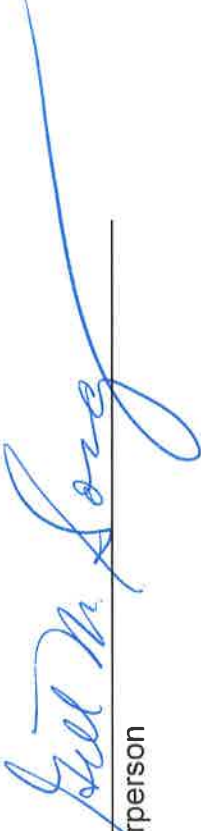
12  
13 Barraza: So moved.

14  
15 Garrett: Second.

16  
17 Sorg: All those in favor signify by saying aye.

18  
19 MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY.

20  
21 Sorg: Meeting's adjourned.

22  
23  
24  
25  
26  
27   
28 Chairperson  
29

