

1 **MESILLA VALLEY METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION**
2 **BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN FACILITIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE**
3

4 The following are minutes for the meeting of the Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities
5 Advisory Committee of the Mesilla Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)
6 which was held January 19, 2016 at 5:00 p.m. in Commission Chambers at Dona Ana
7 County Government Building, 845 Motel Blvd., Las Cruces, New Mexico.
8

9 **MEMBERS PRESENT:** George Pearson, Chair (City of Las Cruces Citizen Rep)
10 Jolene Herrera (NMDOT)
11 Ashleigh Curry (Town of Mesilla Citizen Rep)
12 Andrew Bencomo (Ped. Community Rep)
13 Lance Shepan (Mesilla Marshall's Department)
14 Gabriel Rochelle (Bicycle Community Rep)
15 Samuel Paz (Dona Ana County)
16

17 **MEMBERS ABSENT:** Duane Bentley (Bicycle Community Rep)
18 James Nunez (City of Las Cruces Rep)
19 David Shearer (NMSU - Environmental Safety)
20 Mark Leisher (DAC Citizen Rep)
21

22 **STAFF PRESENT:** Tom Murphy (MPO)
23 Andrew Wray (MPO)
24 Michael McAdams (MPO)
25

26 **OTHERS PRESENT:** Becky Baum, Recording Secretary, RC Creations, LLC
27

28 **1. CALL TO ORDER (5:00)**
29

30 Pearson: Okay. It's 5:00 so I'll call the ...
31

32 PERSON IN THE AUDIENCE SPEAKING, NOT AT THE MICROPHONE.
33

34 Pearson: January 19th, 2016 meeting of the MPO Bicycle and Pedestrians Facility
35 Advisory Committee to order. I think we'll start by every member
36 introducing themselves just so we know who's here. Why don't we start
37 down at the end over there?
38

39 Bencomo: Andrew Bencomo.
40

41 Pearson: And the group you represent.
42

43 Bencomo: The pedestrian, Citizens' Pedestrian.
44

45 Pearson: Thank you.
46

1 Curry: I would nominate George Pearson to be Chair.

2
3 Rochelle: Second.

4
5 Murphy: Who was the second please?

6
7 Rochelle: Rochelle.

8
9 Murphy: Okay. Are there any other nominations? Motion to, would, can I get a
10 motion to close the nominations for Chair?

11
12 Rochelle: Motion.

13
14 Bencomo: Second.

15
16 Murphy: Okay. So the, the nominations are closed for Committee Chair. We have
17 one, one nominee and I think we can ask for a vote of, by acclimation. All
18 in favor?

19
20 MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY.

21
22 Murphy: Any opposed "no?" Okay. Motion, all, the motion carries. Open the floor
23 for a nomination for Vice Chair.

24
25 Pearson: I'll move Ashleigh Curry.

26
27 Rochelle: Second.

28
29 Murphy: Okay.

30
31 Pearson: I'll move to close the nominations.

32
33 Rochelle: Second.

34
35 Murphy: Any objections to closing? Okay. One, again one, one candidate. All in
36 favor "aye."

37
38 MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY.

39
40 Murphy: Any opposed "no?" Okay. So we have George Pearson as Chair and
41 Ashleigh Curry as Vice Chair once again. I'll turn the meeting back over to
42 you Mr. Chair.

43
44 **4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

45
46 **4.1 October 20, 2015**

1 Bencomo: Mr. Chair. I have a question. That rolling stock is pretty clear. What is
2 support? What is that?
3
4 Wray: Basically that is operations support.
5
6 Bencomo: Oh, like personnel.
7
8 Wray: Basically what keeps everything running.
9
10 Pearson: Secretaries and telephones and lights.
11
12 Wray: Yeah. That, that sort of thing.
13
14 Bencomo: Okay. Thank you.
15
16 Pearson: I'll hear a motion to accept the TIP amendment as provided.
17
18 Herrera: Move to approve.
19
20 Pearson: Jolene ...
21
22 Herrera: Jolene.
23
24 Pearson: Moves.
25
26 Rochelle: Second.
27
28 Pearson: From Gabriel, second. All in favor, "aye."
29
30 MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY.
31
32 Pearson: Any opposed? So we have approved that item.
33
34 **7. DISCUSSION ITEMS**
35
36 **7.1 Unified Planning Work Program Update Presentation**
37
38 Pearson: Our next is a discussion item. Unified Planning Work Program update
39 presentation.
40
41 TOM MURPHY GAVE HIS PRESENTATION.
42
43 Pearson: Any questions from Committee Members?
44
45 Herrera: Mr. Chair.
46

1
2 Pearson: Even if it's, it might be worthwhile to set up some metrics where maybe
3 pick a, a, a week or a month to do counting so that we can start
4 accumulating usage over a period of time.
5
6 Murphy: I think, I think we, we tracked total number of usage as long as the drivers
7 are reminded to input that key so it's an, it's an ongoing training issue and
8 I think again it's, it's something that it, you know but I'm with you on that.
9 We want to capture all the data that we can that's useful for us.
10
11 Pearson: Right.
12
13 Curry: Mr. Chair. May I ask a quick question? I'm, I'm not sure that this is
14 necessarily pertinent but it, it seems to relate at the time you're talking
15 about bus training. Is, is there any bus training that has to do with other
16 vulnerable users? I mean it, as far as the bus drivers, you talked about
17 them training counting and things but is there training that they do with
18 how to deal with cyclists, how to do it with pedestrian/school zones, that
19 type of thing?
20
21 Murphy: They do have an, they do have an ongoing training requirement with a
22 safety aspect in it so I do, I'm not aware of the current code curriculum
23 right but I will look into that ...
24
25 Curry: I'd appreciate it.
26
27 Murphy: And have an answer for you.
28
29 Curry: Okay. Thank you.
30
31 Pearson: And last thing I have is I believe the State at a statewide level is going to
32 do a bike plan and I don't know how they're going to divide it up but if they
33 do it kind of regionally would the MPO participate in that or how would that
34 work? Would that be on your list?
35
36 Murphy: Yes. We would participate with the, the DOT on anything that they're
37 working on in this, in this region. We do have a general line item within
38 the UPWP with our State and Federal coordination. I guess it depends
39 upon the, the intensity of the, of the effort whether it would, whether we
40 would have it listed or as a separate item or not.
41
42 Pearson: Yeah. I don't know if the State's done the request for a proposal yet. Do
43 you know anything about that?
44
45 Herrera: Mr. Chair. We did already put out the RFP for the bike suitability map. Is
46 that the one that you're talking about?

1 divided up that way? Because if it was covering the whole thing then
2 you'd probably be there or almost there, closer anyway.
3
4 Murphy: That's correct. If we cover, if we had covered all of Dona Ana County the,
5 the population of Dona Ana County's 209,000 as of the census. But they,
6 it's not, the, the MPOs are not picked on a county by county basis.
7 They're determined based on what the Census Department has classified
8 as an urbanized area and the urbanized area is so many consecutive, not
9 consecutive but I'm losing, losing the word.
10
11 Pearson: Contiguous.
12
13 Rochelle: Contiguous.
14
15 Murphy: Thank you. Contiguous census block groups and tracts that reach a
16 minimum population density threshold. Most, much of the southern Dona
17 Ana County area is contiguous with the urbanized area of El Paso. So
18 they're, they're in the El Paso MPO because they're part of a contiguous
19 urban area. Between us and the El Paso urbanized area we do have
20 some, some areas that are still rural so we don't, we're not contiguous with
21 those areas of Dona Ana County and then of course once we get north of,
22 north of Las Cruces it, it go, it gets rural very fast again and doesn't pick
23 up again until Hatch so that's why we're at 155 rather than the 209.
24
25 Bencomo: Okay. Thank you. I learned my one new thing today.
26
27 Pearson: So going north the density drops significantly so then it becomes rural and
28 it doesn't pick up and so that's why we stop so short? We, we don't even
29 reach to Radium Springs, right?
30
31 Murphy: That's correct.
32
33 Pearson: Doesn't even go, does it include, doesn't even include Dona Ana.
34
35 Murphy: Yes it does.
36
37 Pearson: Does it? It does include Dona Ana. Okay. I don't remember the map.
38
39 Herrera: Mr. Chair.
40
41 Pearson: Yes.
42
43 Herrera: If I can just add to that. So the, the RTP, the Regional Transportation
44 Planning Organization covers the northern part of Dona Ana County so
45 nothing's actually left out of planning. It's just not included in this MPO.
46

1 Pearson: In allowing proxy appointees so if you know you're not going to make it
2 you can assign a proxy to fulfill the, the requirement, the attendance need.
3 So I think we're quite flexible on allowing coverage and since, especially
4 since there wasn't a response I think ...
5
6 Curry: I put forth a motion to remove if you're at that point.
7
8 Pearson: Well it's not, it's only a discussion item.
9
10 Curry: Oh, it's only a discussion item. All right.
11
12 Pearson: But ...
13
14 Bencomo: Mr. Chair. Another comment I have if you don't mind. So yeah I, I can
15 see what, it sounds like if he's made one and missed four that sounds like
16 he's not attending or not planning to attend. If, if somebody were to miss,
17 cause now you're talking as if 75% of, of a certain number of meetings at
18 the beginning or is it for in a calendar year and then, so if I come and I
19 miss two meetings but then I come to every other meeting after, for six
20 months and then I miss another one and then come to every other, I, you
21 could still possibly make 75% throughout the course of the year.
22
23 Pearson: Right. And if you told us you were going to miss one ...
24
25 Bencomo: Right.
26
27 Pearson: We would recognize ...
28
29 Bencomo: But if ...
30
31 Pearson: And it wouldn't ...
32
33 Bencomo: Yeah, if there's no communication from them ...
34
35 Pearson: Right.
36
37 Bencomo: And you've tried to contact them and they've missed this many meetings
38 seems obvious to me they're not, I think we could make the assumption
39 that they're not going to attend 75% even going, this is January so.
40
41 Pearson: So the, the Bylaws section is on the screen so I think it's pretty clear.
42
43 Murphy: It is a 12-month period not a calendar year so I think we always
44 interpreted that as a rolling 12-month period.
45
46 Pearson: Right.

1 Pearson: Right.

2

3 Bencomo: And so I, I would suggest that we look for somebody new. Especially

4 since you've tried to make contact and haven't been able to. Thank you.

5

6 Pearson: Okay.

7

8 **7.3 BPAC Quorum, Bylaw Amendment Discussion**

9

10 Pearson: So we'll go on to the next item which is kind of continuation: The quorum

11 needed to have a meeting. I think this was just kind of a side effect of the,

12 my discussion with staff over this position and right now a quorum requires

13 a majority of, of members. So if we have an even number of members

14 sitting we needed a half plus one. So I wonder if, and during the summer,

15 later in the summer we have TIP amendments and things. Sometimes we

16 have difficulty getting a quorum. I wonder if it's worth pursuing changing

17 that to be simply half rather than a majority. Open that to discussion if

18 that's a good idea or, or we should just let this go by.

19

20 Murphy: Mr. ... oh sorry.

21

22 Herrera: Mr. Chair. The only issue I see is that if there's a split vote but I guess by

23 nature then that fails, right, if a motion is made and there's a split vote then

24 the motion fails.

25

26 Pearson: But we would have that problem with, depending on who's present

27 anyway.

28

29 Herrera: That's true.

30

31 Pearson: Well we have seven today but ...

32

33 Curry: Mr. Chair.

34

35 Pearson: Seven out of 12.

36

37 Curry: How many Committee Members do we have, or should we have with a

38 full, with a full house?

39

40 Pearson: Ten.

41

42 Wray: Mr. Chair. It's 11.

43

44 Shepan: It's 11.

45

46 Pearson: Eleven? So I can't count.

1 that we did make quorum but so the, while we haven't missed a meeting
2 we've gone to some extreme lengths in order to make sure that we did
3 have, we did, were able to meet.
4

5 Pearson: Um ...

6
7 Curry: Would, would there be something that we could do that people need to
8 give a week's notice or something like that if they know that they're not
9 going to be able to be at a meeting so that there's time? I mean obviously
10 they should be sending a proxy but if they were to give a week's notice
11 and say, "I know I'm going to be out of town. I can't be at that." It would
12 give a little bit more time but, and "I can't find a proxy," for another person
13 to be added, the, added to the attendance.
14

15 Wray: Mr. Chair, Ms. Curry. Effectively I guess the, the agenda notification
16 would serve as that. I have not explicitly used that vocabulary in the
17 notices. I'm not sure if I ever did it for BPAC. I know I do it for TAC
18 because we were having problems with TAC a number of years ago, two
19 years ago about, we were having quorum problems. I can start putting
20 that vocabulary into the BPAC, probably not the agenda since that goes
21 out to everyone but the notification that the packet is on the website. I can
22 certainly put vocabulary asking people to notify us if they're not going to be
23 here and send a proxy if at all possible.
24

25 Herrera: And Mr. Chair. I, if I can remember the, there was one time where we
26 didn't have quorum and we had TIP amendments to approve so we had to
27 call another special meeting and it was a really big deal trying to get
28 everyone together on a different day so I do remember only one time but it
29 was a really important meeting.
30

31 Pearson: Yeah cause we would be holding up the TIP amendments which are, it's
32 money. So ...
33

34 Herrera: Right, money in the MPO area.
35

36 Pearson: So we ...
37

38 Bencomo: Mr. Chair.
39

40 Pearson: Well let's, staff go.
41

42 Murphy: Oh. I just wanted to kind of add some information. We did change the
43 quorum for the TAC. Quorum on TAC is seven out of 15 members so
44 Robert's Rules of Order allows the Committee to set its own quorum at
45 less than a majority so ...
46

1 could, we could attempt, we could, we could try sending out a calendar
2 appointment if, if that's what the Committee wants to do but I, I just wanted
3 to let you know there is a mechanism already in, in place that I've been
4 using with the TAC that has worked fairly, I mean obviously you're not
5 going to get 100%. People say they'll be there and then stuff happens
6 and, and so forth so even, even doing the calendar appointment would not
7 necessarily cover all eventualities but with, with the TAC it has been fairly
8 successful with my just asking them to give me the input and reply back
9 which I think does to some extent engage the member in question a little
10 bit more because they have to actually send back the response to me
11 regarding their absence. So I just wanted to offer that up as my
12 experience with the other committee.

13
14 Herrera: Yeah.

15
16 Bencomo: Correct. Which is for all intents and purposes what a response on a
17 calendar appointment would be.

18
19 Curry: Well ...

20
21 Bencomo: Yes or no and, and then not only that but then you could go, we would
22 probably have access to that calendar that, that day at least and we could
23 look at it and we ourselves could also see who's coming and who's not
24 coming. So it's a, just more information for the Committee but I'm good
25 with any direction we go.

26
27 Wray: The, Mr. Chair. The City uses Outlook. I don't know whether or not the, I
28 don't know what, what softwares each one of you is using. I don't know
29 that you could necessarily see who is or is not going to be there. If you're
30 using Outlook I don't believe that's going to be the case, just FYI.

31
32 Curry: May I add one more thing? I think you know just devil's advocate and
33 again I'm like Mr. Bencomo. I think either way is fine with me. If we want
34 to move to five that's fine. But I think if you require a response in some
35 way or another, not just "Let me know if you're not going to be here," "Tell
36 me that you are going to be here." You can weed out if somebody's e-
37 mail's changed or they're not getting the messages cause if they don't get
38 the message to let you know that they're not going to be there then you'll
39 get no response whereas if you ask for a positive response and you get
40 nothing, then you might know to look and say, "Okay. If they're not getting
41 my e-mails, I've tried you know every month and we're not hearing back
42 from this person perhaps there's another way to contact them."

43
44 Wray: Mr. Chair, Ms. Curry. I have not done that, that with TAC because I don't
45 want to be flooded with e-mails. It is a larger committee. We, I could do
46 that with this one since it's smaller. Although if they're not getting my e-

1 Murphy: Okay. "Each, each representative from ...

2
3 Rochelle: Don't put that in the minutes.

4
5 Murphy: A represented entity may appoint an alternate to the Committee to serve
6 when the appointment, Member cannot attend. The represented entity
7 shall submit a letter to the MPO Officer designating the alternate Member."
8 All that meaning says send me, Andrew, Michael an e-mail who's going to
9 be sitting at the meeting for you.

10
11 Pearson: And that is accepted practice. So long as you ...

12
13 Murphy: That is the ...

14
15 Pearson: I think ...

16
17 Murphy: Accepted practice in the digital age.

18
19 Pearson: An hour or two ahead of the meeting it is, even makes, makes the, the
20 rules work.

21
22 Rochelle: Okay. Thank you.

23
24 Pearson: Okay. I think we've solved that one.

25
26 **7.4 Bicycle Loop Adjustment Discussion**

27
28 Pearson: On to, it's Bicycle Loop Adjustment Discussion and when I first saw it I
29 was, I was thinking of the loop indicators in, for traffic but it is instead the,
30 the loop trail around the city.

31
32 **ANDREW WRAY GAVE HIS PRESENTATION.**

33
34 Curry: Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, Mr. Wray. I support the idea of going through NMSU
35 and using the underpass when that's constructed. I do think that
36 alleviates, there's a lot of, a lot going on on University Avenue and for a
37 cyclist I don't really see much opportunity to put in a really safe bike path
38 and you have a really nice facility that goes, the Triviz Trail, the outfall
39 channel, the La Llorona, all of that connects really well. So you know for
40 the use of the trail by families, I think putting them on University is not a
41 very viable option at this, not that I can envision so I support the, in favor
42 of going through the university and finding alternate loops.

43
44 Rochelle: Mr. Chairman. I'd like to add my support to that too as someone who rides
45 that road, that section of the city all the time it, it, University is, I can't
46 imagine that University can be altered for the long haul to be friendly to

1 Wray: Both, both statements are correct. Both of them have been the vision at
2 different points in time. We're, we're hoping as part of this process to nail
3 that down more concretely going forward as to what that, that vision
4 should be.
5

6 Bencomo: Okay. And part of the reason I'm asking the question is because we know
7 that there, work on University's going to happen between Main and 28
8 which would create a great new ...
9

10 Pearson: Right.
11

12 Bencomo: Section but then the disconnection up here so I'm just, if we go through
13 campus which I'm not opposed to. I think it's a great idea especially if
14 they're going to extend underneath University with Triviz and either go
15 down Wells or all the way out to Cholla, then you end up out on Stern
16 going down Cholla or, and, either that or you come back around on Sam
17 Steele then you end up on Union again. So that's why I was wondering
18 where the original thought was if it was going to go to Union cause either
19 way it's going to lead you back to Union.
20

21 Curry: Mr. Chair, Mr. Wray. And if I may add what, can we look at alternatives
22 that it doesn't necessarily have to follow a road? For example the outfall
23 channel follows irrigation ditches. Could we hop on that irrigation ditch
24 whatever it's called behind Whiskey Dick's that would theoretically go all
25 the way through into Mesilla so you would just cross over the light that
26 intersects basically at I-10 and Union where Stern hits Union?
27

28 Bencomo: We could, except that ditch doesn't go to, it heads south. It doesn't go to
29 Mesilla. I've run on that before.
30

31 Curry: But the one I've, I, the one I've run on goes to Mesilla. So it would go up
32 behind Zia and continue on behind Zia and basically you could, you could
33 get your way to Calle de Sur or Calle del Norte from that one.
34

35 Bencomo: Correct. That's the ...
36

37 Curry: So you could be off ...
38

39 Bencomo: But that's not the same one that's behind Whiskey Dick.
40

41 Curry: Oh, is it ...
42

43 Pearson: Yeah.
44

1 Wray: We'll, we'll try and get EBID involved in the process and obviously NMSU
2 is going to need to be heavily involved in the ...
3
4 Pearson: Right.
5
6 Wray: Process as well.
7
8 Pearson: Because it'll, that's going to be a congested area getting across campus
9 and then figuring out how to get it underneath the interstate. Might require
10 just going out into the interchange or something. I don't know ...
11
12 Bencomo: Mr. Chair.
13
14 Pearson: I think, I think a new hole underneath the interstate would be a big deal.
15
16 Bencomo: Mr. Chair. I do, I, I do agree though coming off of University especially
17 between the interstate and Union/El Paseo, the foot traffic there is so
18 heavy and mixing bicycles and foot traffic that's crossing back and forth
19 under campus and bicycle traffic going this way, it's, it's going to be, it can
20 be very congested. So I think going into campus is a great idea,
21 somewhere farther to the south.
22
23 Pearson: Yeah. I think ideally a facility like the outfall channel, like the La Llorona
24 Trail, a what is it, 12-foot asphalt multiuse facility is the ultimate goal for
25 the loop path and then connecting down to the river and that part would
26 become part of the Rio Grande Trail probably.
27
28 Wray: Could be.
29
30 Bencomo: And then maybe NMSU's ability to pull funds from the state legislature
31 would kick into place too. Who knows?
32
33 Herrera: Mr. Chair.
34
35 Pearson: Yes.
36
37 Herrera: Can I make a comment? They're actually related to that comment. It's
38 actually a very timely place to mention that our, it's still called
39 Transportation Alternatives Program and our Rec Trails Program, we're
40 looking at doing a call for projects this spring, applications due August or
41 September of this year for Fiscal Years '18 and '19 so if we could finish
42 this in a timely manner maybe we can get some of the entities involved to
43 apply for some of those funds.
44
45 Pearson: So this would be new funding from the Transportation cause the Rio
46 Grande Trail Commission meeting there was a discussion that the RTP,

1 Pearson: Because where that project ends we need to continue that to wherever it
2 makes the turn down towards the river.

3
4 Herrera: Right. And as far as I know it's, it's very preliminary but those discussions
5 have taken place with NMSU to make sure that when we do connect
6 under we're not just sort of dumping people with no place to go.

7
8 Pearson: Right. Yeah that's ...

9
10 Herrera: So ...

11
12 Pearson: We don't have our NMSU rep here today but that's, obviously that
13 planning effort is very important. So the feel really is to keep our
14 concentration this go-round on this project.

15
16 Wray: Yes Mr. Chair.

17
18 Pearson: So at our, as we continue this you're going to bring us some more maps
19 ...

20
21 Wray: Yes. Definitely.

22
23 Pearson: And we're going to look more closely and ...

24
25 Wray: Yes.

26
27 Pearson: And maybe ...

28
29 Wray: You'll be hearing a lot about this the next couple of months.

30
31 Pearson: Okay. Do I have any other questions or discussion for this item right now?

32 33 **8. COMMITTEE AND STAFF COMMENTS**

34 35 **8.1 MPO Staff Update: University and Missouri Study Corridors Update**

36
37 Pearson: Let's go on to our next one: Committee and Staff Comments. So we have
38 MPO staff update right now.

39
40 Wray: Thank you Mr. Chair. I'm pleased to announce that the Policy Committee
41 last Wednesday approved the Phase A study of the University Avenue
42 corridor. It's, quite pleased about that. I've worked on that for nearly a
43 year, year-ish, about a year to get that done. We do have two, two
44 recommended alternatives to take forward to a potential Phase B so we're
45 hoping to be able to do that.

1
2 Bencomo: Mr. Chair. I'm sorry, can I make a quick comment just cause it's in my
3 head right now? The, so La Llorona at, the, the north piece that they just
4 redid, I've run on that several times. It's great. It's a, it's a nice path that
5 they built there. Just to, to, I wanted to throw this out there before I forget.
6 In the future we may need to look at from Picacho south because that one,
7 the way it's built it's a great path when it's, and I know we don't get that
8 much rain here but when it rains it floods. It's, it's, it's side, end to end is
9 just covered with water and deep too so when we tried to run the Turkey
10 Trot that day it, we were splashing through water and running through the
11 weeds and the grass to get around multiple puddles so that, that may
12 have to be something in the future to look at so I, I'm sorry. I just wanted
13 to throw that out before I forgot.

14
15 Pearson: Okay. Dona Ana County do you have anything on any projects that we
16 know about?

17
18 Paz: Yes. We have roadway improvement projects occurring along Baylor
19 Canyon and Dripping Springs. Construction has started and is, and is
20 scheduled to be completed by the end of May. Engineering staff has
21 reported that there is considerations for bike lanes along those projects.

22
23 Pearson: Yeah. That was part of the design as I recall. Town of Mesilla have
24 anything to ...

25
26 Shepan: No sir.

27
28 Pearson: And no NMSU here.

29
30 **8.3 NMDOT Projects update**

31
32 Pearson: We'll go on to the next one: NMDOT.

33
34 Herrera: Mr. Chair. I'll run quickly through the construction projects and then we
35 can talk about some of the other stuff if you would like.

36 The North Main project, I'm not going to give any more deadlines
37 because we keep missing them. They're done with the major work.
38 They're just doing a few minor things here and there so ...

39
40 Pearson: I saw new orange barrel complaints in Sound Off.

41
42 Herrera: Right. Hopefully we should be done soon. I'm just going to leave it at
43 that.

44 There's some work going on on I-10 between Jackrabbit and I-10/I-
45 25 so you'll notice that they're working on the westbound lanes. When
46 they hit the traffic control for the Union/Ramp E they will stop and then

1 that's all been worked out so they're moving quickly on that one. We hope
2 to get everything put back together soon.
3
4 Curry: And that includes the Triviz Trail, the bike ...
5
6 Herrera: Yes.
7
8 Curry: Or the multiuse path.
9
10 Herrera: Yeah. We'll put that back ...
11
12 Curry: Great.
13
14 Herrera: As is, or as it was before. And those are all the construction projects in
15 town I believe. Are there any questions on those?
16
17 Pearson: Was there public notice, or press release on the traffic control when you
18 changed for the Union bridge project to close Conway and, because I
19 missed it then.
20
21 Herrera: Yeah. There was. We, we really need to check on, I think the distribution
22 lists, might have got messed up somehow. So if you're not receiving
23 those e-mails let me know. Now I know that you're not. Just to make
24 sure.
25
26 Curry: I'm not either.
27
28 Herrera: Okay.
29
30 Curry: No.
31
32 Pearson: Yeah. I think, well I haven't gotten any since MPO wasn't allowed to
33 forward anymore.
34
35 Herrera: Okay.
36
37 Pearson: And I didn't see it in the paper and I went, was heading south and had to
38 go the ...
39
40 Rochelle: Yeah. Same thing.
41
42 Herrera: Yeah. Maybe they're just being sent internally which doesn't seem likely.
43 I don't ...
44
45 Pearson: I read the paper and I would think ...
46

1 Herrera: So that's still going to be an eligible expenditure or eligible project I guess
2 under TAP. It's still going to be called TAP. Pretty much we haven't
3 changed anything in our guidebooks so the same eligibilities and criteria
4 still apply. The same goes for the Rec Trails Program. So we're just
5 making sure that we reference the new, the new transportation bill,
6 double-checking a few things before we put the guides out. But pretty
7 much nothing has really changed as far as criteria and eligibility. Some of
8 the, I guess the, the process for how to apply for funding has changed.
9 We hope to make it a little bit easier as far as getting approvals from
10 commissions or city councils and things because that sometimes can be
11 cumbersome especially when you're on a crunched timeline and some city
12 councils and county commissions only meet once a month or, so it's a little
13 hard. So we're looking at some of that stuff but really not a whole lot's
14 changed. The funding amount seems to be about the same so we'll have
15 just a little over \$5 million in TAP and then probably about \$2 million in
16 Rec Trails that will be ...

17

18 Curry: And will there be application openings every year? Is that the
19 anticipation?

20

21 Herrera: No. We actually are funding on a two-year cycle ...

22

23 Curry: Okay.

24

25 Herrera: Now and that's really to help local governments to phase the project in a
26 way, in a way that makes them successful so we've been doing design in
27 the first fiscal year and construction in the second fiscal year. That way
28 they don't have like five months to design everything and go out to
29 construction. It just wasn't working that way. So we program two fiscal
30 years out.

31

32 Curry: Okay. Thank you.

33

34 Pearson: And for non-construction projects they're, they're just handled for two
35 years anyways.

36

37 Herrera: Right. Yeah. And the contracts are actually, well the funds expire so you
38 have the year of award plus three years after so I mean technically
39 construction could take up to three years after the award if that gives you
40 some indication. That's the same for the programs as well.

41

42 Pearson: And can you go over again what you're expecting the, the timeline for the
43 next phase, that's ...

44

45 Herrera: Sure. This morning at our staff meeting we had talked about having the
46 guidebook finalized hopefully by mid-March at the latest. We would

1 Herrera: Yes.

2

3 Pearson: *(Inaudible)*

4

5 Herrera: Yeah. Are there any other questions on that? No? Mr. Chair I do have
6 just one more update to follow up on the University study that was just
7 completed, or approved by the Policy Committee. I have been talking to
8 Trent and Harold from District 1 and we have agreed to seek funding for
9 additional phases of that project I guess. So we're looking for funding for
10 Phase B all the way up through final design and we're looking at possibly
11 funding a project in the STIP. We don't have a fiscal year yet but, so sorry
12 can't tell you that but ...

13

14 Pearson: But that's good news. That's a project that has been desired for many
15 years.

16

17 Herrera: Yes. And I think, yeah Trent is making a, an effort to I guess follow-up on
18 more of the things that the MPO's started so.

19

20 Rochelle: One more question. When you say 14.5% for both programs for TAP and
21 the Recreational program, what's the base out of which this 14.5% is
22 reckoned? What is that? I, I'm not sure what that means.

23

24 Pearson: Well if you have a \$100,000 project, you want to build a, a trail for
25 \$100,000 whoever is acquiring, who's sponsoring the project so if the City
26 of Las Cruces, let's say they're spending \$100,000 to extend La Llorona.
27 The City has to come up with \$14,565 thousand, right.

28

29 Rochelle: Ah, okay. All right. That's very helpful. Now I get it.

30

31 Pearson: So that would be the local match part of the project.

32

33 Rochelle: Got it.

34

35 Pearson: Okay. So do we have any Committee Member comments want to make?
36 Any questions or comments?

37

38 Bencomo: Mr. Chair.

39

40 Pearson: Yes.

41

42 Bencomo: I always have a comment sorry. And I didn't know how to take your
43 comment a while ago when you said something about being ignorant and
44 then Mr. Bencomo I'm like, *(inaudible)* I don't know how to take that.
45 Anyway I, I, I had mentioned this I guess probably first or second meeting
46 and I would, I'm bringing it up again. Looking at the, the trail map that we

1
2 Pearson: Yes, maybe just pick on one instead of trying to do too much. Maybe the
3 trail priorities should be the one, first emphasis on the loop. Once we're
4 done with the loop then we can start looking at other things. Another
5 question I guess for you Jolene is on the TAP and the RTP, we're talking
6 about the loop trail. Both funds could be used for that, isn't that right?
7 And how do you pick how to apply?
8
9 Herrera: It really depends. The TAP program is in its name: Transportation
10 Alternatives so it's really meant for people who are more commuting or
11 those kinds of things. Obviously it can be used for recreation but it's really
12 to, to transport people whereas Rec Trails is more like it says for
13 recreation so along the river or ...
14
15 Pearson: Of course we've used ...
16
17 Herrera: Something ...
18
19 Pearson: The TAP funds ...
20
21 Herrera: Right.
22
23 Pearson: For those projects.
24
25 Herrera: Yes.
26
27 Pearson: The outfall channel and La Llorona.
28
29 Herrera: Because you can make the argument that people use them ...
30
31 Pearson: Right.
32
33 Herrera: For commuting or, yeah to get around the city. So it's, it's really hard sort
34 of to distinguish. It's really a matter of where you feel like you can have a
35 better chance of getting funds. And some local governments have applied
36 for both simultaneously.
37
38 Pearson: Do they go, do, whoever reviews these, do they know that that's
39 happened?
40
41 Herrera: Yes.
42
43 Pearson: So, cause it ...
44
45 Herrera: So it's in the same area. The, the difference is that the Rec Trails projects
46 are picked by the Rec Trails Board and it's a coalition of different people

1
2 Pearson: And, NMSU ...
3
4 Curry: Or even ...
5
6 Pearson: Might do ...
7
8 Curry: If, yeah.
9
10 Pearson: Extension underneath, the Triviz extension and then maybe the City'll look
11 at doing like they did for the outfall channel, connect between.
12
13 Herrera: Right. It's just really a matter of how much funding each local government
14 is able to match.
15
16 Curry: Correct, yeah. Are there any other grants that are able to, to help with that
17 match? Sort of seem to remember something about that on a webinar
18 that I watched about that funding.
19
20 Herrera: There are. The only stipulation really is that you can't match federal funds
21 with other federal funds but you can use state funding so if, if somebody
22 was to use their local government road fund which is also a DOT program
23 but it's, it's the state funding portion, some local governments do use that
24 to match federal grants, you can also apply for funding through the
25 legislature. There's several state funding sources that you can apply as a
26 match ...
27
28 Curry: Okay.
29
30 Herrera: Toward your (*inaudible*).
31
32 Curry: Cause I'm thinking some of these entities may not have the money, the
33 14.56% so if they could use a different grant and match it, and then how
34 does that work out if those grants are sort of being applied for
35 simultaneously you know and you don't get the one that you were hoping
36 for to match but you receive the other one and you can't do it. Do you
37 decline that money or how does that end up working?
38
39 Herrera: Yes. When, when we send out award letters most of them have language
40 "If you cannot use this funding please let us know so that we can
41 reallocate it." So.
42
43 Curry: Okay.
44

1
2 Herrera: To sort of coordinate that ...
3
4 Pearson: So if the ...
5
6 Herrera: Within themselves.
7
8 Pearson: Committee we decide we would like to see this project, we could do a
9 recommendation to the Policy Committee that they recommend to their
10 entities that that's a good project.
11
12 Herrera: Right. Because that Board has, well all three entities minus NMSU but I'm
13 sure they can get them involved.
14
15 Bencomo: Okay. Yeah and I didn't necessarily mean the, the MPO would actually be
16 doing all that.
17
18 Herrera: Right.
19
20 Bencomo: They're, they're probably like, "Oh my God what's he trying to do to us?" I
21 just meant more they're that link that brings these communities together
22 and so, the common link so.
23
24 Herrera: Right. And those, those links are already set up I think through this
25 Committee, through the TAC Committee, and then through the Policy
26 Committee so.
27
28 Bencomo: Okay. Thank you.
29
30 Pearson: Yeah. If we made a recommendation like that it would go to the TAC also,
31 right?
32
33 Wray: Yes.
34
35 Pearson: Okay. Any other Committee Members have comments? I guess I'll have
36 a couple of comments. The Rio Grande Trail Commission had their
37 meeting down here, seemed very successful. I attended it. Their, the big
38 announcement that I got out of it was the, the RTP funds that are available
39 will be used towards a overall planning guide for the, the trail. So that
40 would, that's a really important step. The trail itself is going to go, is
41 planned from the Texas border to the Colorado border and it's, can be a
42 great economic driver, tourism, think Appalachian trail, things like that.
43 The other thing is on August 23rd of, April 23rd of this year is the
44 New Mexico Bike Summit which will be hosted here in Las Cruces. It'll be
45 at the WIA Building. Everybody's certainly encouraged to participate.
46 There'll be more information. It's nmbikeed.org is the website for the

1 Wray: Time with the nuance of that but it was a conscious decision to do so.
2
3 Rochelle: I get it.
4
5 Pearson: Is the meeting schedule on there?
6
7 Wray: Yes.
8
9 Rochelle: The meeting schedule's on, yes.
10
11 Pearson: Okay. I didn't, I was looking for that. So that's, also we should say when
12 our next meeting is before we adjourn which is next month, right?
13
14 Wray: February but I don't know what the date is.
15
16 Pearson: Third Tuesday.
17
18 Wray: Yeah. Third, third Tuesday of February.
19
20 Pearson: Okay. We'll try again. Motion to adjourn?
21
22 Shepan: So moved.
23
24 Pearson: Any ...
25
26 Curry: Second.
27
28 Pearson: All in favor, "aye."
29
30 MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY.
31
32 Pearson: We're adjourned.
33

34
35
36
37
38 
39 _____
40 Chairperson