



METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

SERVING LAS CRUCES, DOÑA ANA COUNTY, AND MESILLA

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MESILLA VALLEY METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION BICYCLE AND PEDESTRIAN FACILITIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

AGENDA

The following is the agenda for the Mesilla Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization's (MPO) Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee meeting to be held on **February 16, 2016 at 5:00 p.m.** in the **Doña Ana Commission Chambers, 845 Motel Boulevard**, Las Cruces, New Mexico. Meeting packets are available on the [Mesilla Valley MPO website](#).

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1. **CALL TO ORDER** _____ **Chair**
2. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA** _____ **Chair**
3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** _____ **Chair**
 - 3.1. January 19, 2016 _____
4. **PUBLIC COMMENT** _____ **Chair**
5. **ACTION ITEMS** _____
 - 5.1. Amendment to the MPO Bylaws _____ **MPO Staff**
6. **COMMITTEE and STAFF COMMENTS** _____
 - 6.1. MPO Staff Update: Missouri Study Corridor Update _____ **MPO Staff**
 - 6.2. Local Projects update _____ **CLC, DAC, TOM, NMSU Staff**
 - 6.3. NMDOT Projects update _____ **NMDOT Staff**
7. **PUBLIC COMMENT** _____ **Chair**
8. **ADJOURNMENT** _____ **Chair**
9. **WORK SESSION – MULTI-USE TRAIL LOOP** _____ **BPAC**

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 Paz: Samuel Paz, Dona Ana County.
2
3 Rochelle: Father Gabriel Rochelle, Bicycling Community Representative.
4
5 Curry: Ashleigh Curry, Town of Mesilla, Citizen's Rep.
6
7 Shepan: Lance Shepan, Mesilla Marshall's Department.
8
9 Herrera: Jolene Herrera, NMDOT.
10
11 Pearson: I'm George Pearson, the City of Las Cruces Citizen Rep.
12

13 **2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

14
15 Pearson: So next is Approval of the Agenda. Are there any changes or comments
16 on the agenda as presented?
17
18 Murphy: No.
19
20 Pearson: Then we'll hear a motion to accept ...
21
22 Rochelle: So moved.
23
24 Pearson: The agenda.
25
26 Curry: And I second.
27
28 Pearson: Gabriel moved and Ashleigh seconded. All in favor "aye."
29

30 MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY.

31
32 Pearson: Any opposed? Hearing none.
33

34 **3. ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

35
36 Pearson: This is our first meeting of the year so the next order of business is
37 election of officers. If I can turn it over to the MPO staff to run this part of
38 the meeting.
39
40 Murphy: Oh.
41
42 Pearson: Until we have a new Chair elected.
43
44 Murphy: Okay. I will I guess open the floor and accept a nomination for Chair for
45 the upcoming calendar year.
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
2 Pearson: Okay. So now our next item is Approval of the Minutes of October 20th.
3 Is there any discussion on the meeting minutes? I had one comment. I
4 noticed it starts off with "we called it at four p.m. I think it should've been
5 5:04 p.m. which is the time stamp that's above that but the, the text just
6 says four. Any other comments? I'll hear a motion to approve the minutes
7 as amended.

8
9 Rochelle: So moved.

10
11 Bencomo: Second.

12
13 Pearson: By Gabriel, second by was it Lance? No? Andrew. Having a motion and
14 a second all in favor of approving the minutes say "aye."
15

16 MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY.
17

18 Pearson: Any opposed? So the minutes are approved.
19

20 **5. PUBLIC COMMENT**

21
22 Pearson: Next we have an opportunity for public comment. Anyone from the public
23 want to address us? Hearing none.
24

25 **6. ACTION ITEMS**

26
27 **6.1 Amendments to the 2016-2021 Transportation Improvement Program**

28
29 Pearson: We'll go on to the next item. Action Item: We have a TIP amendment.

30
31 Wray: Just a second Mr. Chair.

32
33 Pearson: You need a document?

34
35 Wray: I negligently failed to print myself a packet so I need to borrow one from a
36 Member of the Committee.
37

38 Curry: You owe me one.

39
40 Wray: Thank you Mr. Chair and thank you Ms. Curry for providing my, my lack of
41 paper.
42

43 ANDREW WRAY GAVE HIS PRESENTATION.

44
45 Pearson: Any questions from the Committee?
46

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 Pearson: Yeah.
2
3 Herrera: I don't have a question but a comment. It's the same one that I made at
4 the TAC meeting when you did this presentation about the regional safety
5 study. I just don't see it on this list. And you added the other ones from
6 TAC so just a ...
7
8 Murphy: Andrew took a note.
9
10 Herrera: Just a friendly reminder. Thank you Mr. Chair.
11
12 Pearson: Okay. You mentioned an MPO webpage. You're hosted underneath the
13 City website. Are you going to be able to still retain your identity? I mean
14 you got the MVMPO, you've got some URL to start out with but then all of
15 a sudden you're sucked into the City and you look very much like a City
16 website. Does that, what's going to change?
17
18 Murphy: We are, we are going to be hosted on a third party site so it'll, it'll be
19 completely ours. We are getting a new, a, a new URL associated with
20 that. We will still, we will still have a link to our new website on the City's
21 website but ...
22
23 Pearson: Okay.
24
25 Murphy: We will be independent of the City's page.
26
27 Pearson: Okay. Good. On the, you were talking about automated bus passenger
28 counting. Would that also have an ability somehow to count, track
29 bicycles that are used in the bike racks? And also what would be
30 important is when those are filled and somebody wants to use a bike rack
31 and it's not available.
32
33 Murphy: Unfortunately the, the technology is it, it, there's a, there's a beam that
34 catches people coming on and going through the doors and which
35 direction they're going, going in. I know at some point and it, it's a, a
36 matter of driver training that they can have input when the, when the,
37 when the bikes are, are loaded onto the racks but they don't, I don't think
38 they have a procedure for when the bikes come off the racks.
39
40 Pearson: Okay.
41
42 Murphy: So and we're ...
43
44 Pearson: It might be ...
45
46 Murphy: We're not there yet.

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
2 Pearson: No. It'd be a, more, a statewide plan, much like with the multimodal plan,
3 on that model.
4
5 Herrera: Right. So we're still working on the RFP for that.
6
7 Pearson: Okay. Yeah. I think ...
8
9 Herrera: And we hope to have that done ...
10
11 Pearson: *(inaudible)*
12
13 Herrera: This summer so that we can put it out first thing Federal Fiscal Year 2017
14 and we definitely would include all of the MPOs as well as the RTPOs in
15 that coordination. Sort of like Tom said there's the, the general line item
16 but if we needed to amend the UPWP later to add more budget to that or
17 something we could always do that.
18
19 Pearson: Okay.
20
21 Herrera: Or I guess the MPO can always do that.
22
23 Pearson: Any other comments or questions? So ...
24
25 Curry: Well actually I do have one more question if I may. Is, is it my
26 understanding that the MPO the, the different funding levels the way the
27 MPOs work around the country is that it's 200,000 people who live in the
28 MPO region and then it bumps up. How close are we? Oh and have I got
29 that number mistaken? How close are we to being an MPO that does
30 funding instead of it going through the State?
31
32 Murphy: Mr. Chair, Ms. Curry. You are, you're correct. There is a special dividing
33 line at 200,000 residents for the area. It's called a transportation
34 management association and they, they do have, they do have more
35 direct programming authority than an MPO that is between 50,000 and
36 200,000. As of the, as of the 2010 census we had approximately 155,000
37 people in our MPO planning boundary.
38
39 Curry: Okay. Thank you.
40
41 Bencomo: Mr. Chair. I have a question.
42
43 Pearson: Okay.
44
45 Bencomo: It's kind of a follow-up on hers. So the, your, this MPO doesn't cover all of
46 Dona Ana County. El Paso covers the southern portion of it. So why is it

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 RTPO, 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: Right.
2
3 Herrera: Thanks.
4
5 Pearson: Right. That's actually something I didn't figure out until a long time in the
6 process is that the MPO and the RPO covers the entire state. Any other
7 comments? Okay.
8

9 7.2 Committee Attendance Discussion

10
11 Pearson: I'll go on to the next item now. Committee Attendance Discussion. We
12 have a member appointed, Mr. Duane Bentley who applied through the
13 Policy Committee, attended one meeting, and hasn't attended since. I put
14 out an e-mail asking if he was still around or interested, did not get a
15 response. We had a similar circumstance not terribly long ago so this is
16 just some discussion. I guess I'm inclined to suggest that we recommend
17 to the Policy Committee to remove this member. Is there any other
18 discussion?
19

20 Bencomo: Mr. Chair. Being new to the Committee and I apologize for this, I probably
21 should know this but the, the Bylaws whatever, the, that guy just, what
22 are, what are the requirements they have to, are there? They miss so
23 many meetings and what, what is the criteria and has that person reached
24 that threshold and if they have then it sounds to me like it'd be obvious.
25

26 Pearson: Do you want to respond?
27

28 Murphy: Yes. I, if you wish I'll respond to that. The, the Bylaws state that you are
29 required to attend a minimum of 75% of the meetings in a, in a calendar
30 year. It also additionally allows that, or calls on the Chair to notify the
31 Policy Committee if a member is to miss more than two consecutive
32 meetings. This individual has not been on it for a year yet but I believe
33 he's made two meetings and this is number ...
34

35 Pearson: I think only one meeting.
36

37 Murphy: Only one? He, he only made one meeting and he's, this'll be the fourth
38 one that he's missed so he's well below, he's well below that 75%
39 threshold so ...
40

41 Pearson: Yeah. I think so. It's, the statement is attending the meeting is a
42 requirement. I think we flexed that ...
43

44 Murphy: That's right.
45

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
2 Bencomo: Thank you.
3
4 Pearson: But we can say ...
5
6 Herrera: Mr. Chair.
7
8 Pearson: Yes.
9
10 Herrera: Sorry to interrupt you. What position is this person filling right now?
11
12 Pearson: It's a Bicycle Community Representative.
13
14 Herrera: Okay.
15
16 Pearson: Representative. So a replacement would be appointed by the Policy
17 Committee but it'd be open to anybody that has any interests in bicycling,
18 which could be pretty much anybody. So ...
19
20 Rochelle: Well is there a process, excuse me Mr. Chairman. Is there a process for
21 removal? Is it, is it just ...
22
23 Pearson: Well it goes to the ...
24
25 Rochelle: Moving and seconding and ...
26
27 Pearson: Policy Committee. So I think ...
28
29 Murphy: The, the process for removal would be that the, that the Chair notifies the
30 Policy Committee in writing that the Member has, has missed and then the
31 Policy Committee may vote to remove that individual from office. I think
32 what our discussion here today is the Chair wants to get input, feedback
33 from the rest of the Committee whether he should submit that written
34 notification.
35
36 Pearson: And I think the feeling is that yes, I should and so I will.
37
38 Bencomo: Mr. Chair.
39
40 Pearson: Yes.
41
42 Bencomo: Yeah, from my perspective I would, basically what I said a while ago. I, I
43 would think that looking at this that the recommendation we need to go
44 forward. If we, if we need somebody to fill that position and he hasn't
45 been coming it's important for somebody to be here.
46

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
2 Shepan: One here. You got this. You should have that somewhere.
3
4 Pearson: Oh. I went from the last minutes so I'm ...
5
6 Curry: Oh I think we're supposed to sign that and pass it around.
7
8 Rochelle: Oh is that the, oh.
9
10 Curry: Yeah. That's to sign in.
11
12 Rochelle: I didn't sign it either.
13
14 Curry: Okay.
15
16 Rochelle: That should be going around, right. Sorry.
17
18 Pearson: Ten, 11. Okay. I missed one on my list. I had ...
19
20 Curry: And so if I may ask how, how often does it happen that we don't have a
21 quorum?
22
23 Pearson: It has happened since I've been Chair three times, maybe.
24
25 Curry: In that period of time?
26
27 Pearson: Would that be, staff have a different ...
28
29 Murphy: Did, did we research it? It hasn't happened, occurred in a while but ...
30
31 Wray: It has not occurred in a while and in my research the past couple times
32 looking at the attendance I was not specifically looking for meetings that
33 failed to do the quorum but three sounds about right, maybe even at least
34 since I've been in this position maybe only once.
35
36 Pearson: Yeah. That's ...
37
38 Wray: So maybe two times before I started.
39
40 Murphy: Well no ...
41
42 Pearson: Sounds about right.
43
44 Murphy: If I could, Mr. Chair. If I offer some, a little bit of historical perspective.
45 There have been times where we've, we've gone into the Planning Office
46 at the, at the County here and, and dragged one of the planners out so

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 Rochelle: That's true.
2
3 Murphy: We're not necessarily tied to 50% plus one. You know for any reason, you
4 know and this is, this is a, an extreme example you could decide to set
5 your quorum at two so any two of you together would constitute a quorum.
6 Now not going to do that I'm pretty sure but, but Robert's Rule of Order
7 allows you to set it as low as you need to do in order that you, you can
8 trust that you can get the business, business handled.
9
10 Herrera: Mr. Chair. I guess with that being said, I like five.
11
12 Pearson: I was running that through my calculations and five, I think five is a good
13 number.
14
15 Bencomo: Mr. Chair. Can I, can I make a suggestion?
16
17 Pearson: Yeah.
18
19 Bencomo: So maybe at this point I don't know, I, I'm, once again I'm fairly new to this
20 Committee. Maybe at this point the, the numbers maybe don't need to
21 change. Maybe our processes need to change. So when the notice goes
22 out from Andrew perhaps, cause right now it's, it's an e-mail and it has the
23 attachments here so all the information. Is there a way to do a, perhaps
24 like a calendar appointment and then the expectation of the Board, of this,
25 this Committee is to respond "yes" or "no" to that? You, you have to
26 respond to that. And then you know at least that distance ahead who may
27 or may not be coming. Then you already have an idea of that. Right now
28 you have to walk in the door before you know if we're going to be here or
29 not. If we have to, if we're, an expectation is for us to respond to that
30 calendar appointment then you would know ahead of time, for the most
31 part.
32
33 Pearson: Yeah.
34
35 Bencomo: Perhaps. I don't know. Just a suggestion. I'm, I'm good with changing
36 the numbers too. It's not a, that big of a deal to me but maybe that's
37 something we could do.
38
39 Wray: Mr. Chair. The, the way that I phrase the vocabulary and I, I don't, I don't
40 believe I've ever said this for the BPAC but the way that I do it is I ask
41 people to let me know if they will not be in attendance so I get that ...
42
43 Bencomo: Right.
44
45 Wray: That response back from members who know that they're not going to be
46 there and then we have a dialogue about "Please send a proxy." We

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 mails usually the, the e-mails will be bounced back because the, the e-
2 mail account is closed but I, I could ask for a positive or negative
3 affirmation from everybody if the Committee wants.
4
5 Curry: Not to make more work. I mean it, it, it's, you, really either way for me. I
6 don't have a strong opinion.
7
8 Pearson: Jolene.
9
10 Herrera: Mr. Chair. I still like five.
11
12 Pearson: Well we're dealing with holding up the process so I also like five. I wonder
13 if we shouldn't pursue, what would be the steps? We would have to ...
14
15 Murphy: Just a, Mr. Chair. The steps would be next meeting staff will bring back
16 language change for a proposed Bylaw amendment, this Committee
17 would make a recommendation on it, then we would take it to the Policy
18 Committee for them to, to decide whether or not to adopt such a change.
19 So staff, staff will, will prepare the language either way and then you know
20 we can vote on it next month.
21
22 Pearson: I think that's, unless there's a strong objection against and I already heard
23 a, a good argument for. I think we should go ahead and make that
24 change. I hear you.
25
26 Rochelle: Mr. Chair. I've got a side question I'd like to ask.
27
28 Pearson: Okay.
29
30 Rochelle: Which is how do we determine, is there any, are there any criteria for
31 proxies? Is that, is there anything in the Bylaws about that?
32
33 Pearson: I know what ...
34
35 Rochelle: I need a ...
36
37 Pearson: Accepted practice has been ...
38
39 Rochelle: Copy of these obviously.
40
41 Pearson: Whether it's in the Bylaws or not.
42
43 Murphy: We, we do have some language in the Bylaws I need to ...
44
45 Rochelle: I mean do you simply pick somebody off the street for that day?
46

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 bicycles so we, I invariably go on other roads when I'm going from say
2 Route 25 to my home in Mesilla. I live right off, I live on University only of
3 course it's called Sur in Mesilla but I have to find alternative ways because
4 I'm not, it's, it's too dangerous for cyclists, even people as experienced as
5 me and others on this Committee. So I'm in, very much in favor of it.
6

7 Paz: Mr. Chair. I also support the, the bicycling the NMSU route. I think one
8 campus to reference would be the University of Arizona. They have a
9 strong bicycle avenue that bisects campus and it connects two lanes of
10 bicycle infrastructure. I think it's a good system to look at.
11

12 Bencomo: Mr. Chair. I, I just have some questions. So the original, the loop as it
13 was originally planned, was it going to go down University correct and
14 then all the way past Main Street or was it going to go down Union,
15 University then to Union?
16

17 Wray: Mr. Chair, Mr. Bencomo. Unfortunately the cursor is not terribly visible the
18 way that it, I'm not sure if I can ...
19

20 Curry: I can see it.
21

22 Bencomo: I can see it. We can see it.
23

24 Wray: Okay. Right now the connection is along right in there and there is a
25 facility along that stretch but as you can see it's kind of, it's a bit isolated.
26 The, the conversations that we're having with NMSU would put the, the
27 trail more somewhere in the southern, I, I, I did, I have heard some, some
28 options mentioned but I, I won't mention them at this time but somewhere
29 more along down in, in this vicinity with the Triviz Trail coming down and
30 meeting up with it down here. That's, that's just the, kind of the vision of
31 where that connection will be and so this facility would still remain but it
32 wouldn't necessarily be considered part of the, the, the loop around Las
33 Cruces in the future.
34

35 Bencomo: Okay. But, but my question is the, the, the original plan for the loop, was it
36 going to go down University and then connect to Union or go all the way
37 down University to, into Mesilla?
38

39 Wray: There, there've been varying levels of visions.
40

41 Bencomo: Okay.
42

43 Wray: So kind of both have been correct at ...
44

45 Pearson: I remember a City resolution that identifies University as the loop.
46

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 Bencomo: It's a different one. But yeah I, I, I agree using the irrigation ditches to me
2 instead of staying on roadways, I, I, I would love if we did that. In fact I
3 would, I'd want to push to do that and start using ...
4
5 Curry: Yeah.
6
7 Bencomo: Those irrigation ditches. I think it creates more opportunities if they're
8 safer and you don't have to worry about the road widths as much and try
9 to pack everything into it like ...
10
11 Curry: Right.
12
13 Bencomo: We did, the discussions we've had.
14
15 Curry: I think, yeah.
16
17 Bencomo: But anyway. Sorry for, for all the questions. I just, I'm trying to figure
18 everything out but I do support it going into campus. I think it's a great
19 connection to the university and helps that synergy between the
20 community and the university. Just looping it back around is the only
21 question I had. Where are we going to loop back out to complete that
22 loop? Are we creating more issues going farther that way by doing that?
23 And so lots of questions.
24
25 Wray: That, that'll be something that gets resolved when they actually get to the,
26 the drawing of, of lines on paper which we're certainly not to at this
27 moment in time and, and we can certainly look at all, all available facilities
28 to make, to make those connections so, but we're, we're just starting out
29 at this point ...
30
31 Pearson: Right.
32
33 Wray: Still beginning the conversation. We have not actually looked at in detail.
34 We're just kind of starting with what we have now and what can we do to
35 improve this.
36
37 Pearson: Right. I think the key questions are first: How far on the campus? What
38 happens after you get past University on Triviz? You come down Cholla
39 and then after that how do you get across I-10? And then you've got the
40 length down to the river. There's, I think that there's a drain of some sort,
41 probably EBID drain that might be usable for that kind of thing.
42
43 Wray: Well ...
44
45 Pearson: I have some memory of that but I couldn't pick it out.
46

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/EI 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 the Recreational Trail funding there's about half a million dollars
2 apparently would be used for a plan for the Rio Grande Trail but then if we
3 do that plan then we have an opportunity for implementation with the next
4 budget funds.
5
6 Herrera: Right. And then we're also looking at some, well I guess some new Rec
7 Trails funding for the two upcoming fiscal years. Cause right now we're
8 programmed in '16 and '17 so this is for '18 and '19.
9
10 Curry: What was the date, the call for proposals date?
11
12 Herrera: We're looking at sometime this spring. We don't have a hard date right
13 now. They're still sort of working on updating the guidebooks just to make
14 sure that everything's in line with ...
15
16 Pearson: We ...
17
18 Herrera: The new transportation laws.
19
20 Pearson: Why don't we have that discussion in the updates? Because I ...
21
22 Herrera: Oh. Okay.
23
24 Pearson: I intended to direct us towards that.
25
26 Herrera: Well he brought up funding so.
27
28 Pearson: And as part of this also I wonder if we should look at the trails in general,
29 the trail plan. During the Amador Proximo the EBID facility was identified
30 as a potential trail location. It might be worthwhile especially in light of you
31 know the new funding coming up to identify potential projects.
32
33 Wray: Mr. Chair. I would say that yes that's a very good idea but specifically in
34 light of the opportunity here we may not want to broaden the scope of this
35 any further if we're going to be operating with that kind of timeline of call
36 for projects in spring and then applications due in August or September.
37 I'd say that'd be something that we might, that we should consider as a
38 next step after this particular process.
39
40 Pearson: Okay. So if we're looking at, how much of the, the multiuse trail would be
41 part of the University interchange project, it would extend how far?
42
43 Herrera: I'm not sure yet. We're still sort of looking at the old design. That
44 consulting firm that did the design no longer exists so we kind of have to
45 start not all over but sort of, and so that is also up for discussion.
46

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 On the Missouri project we had a, a staff meeting with the different
2 jurisdictions last Wednesday. We got a, a lot of very good feedback from
3 the City and the County on that one. We are in the process of digesting
4 that information that we received. We're, we're right now thinking that we
5 may have two more public input meetings before taking this up to the
6 Policy Committee to, for their review. We will be bringing the Missouri
7 study corridor to this Committee for, for their review. We don't have a
8 timeline for that one right at the moment but we will be bringing it to this
9 Committee for, for their examination. Was there anything else that we
10 have going on? Believe that concludes staff updates.

11
12 Pearson: Okay.

14 8.2 Local Projects update

15
16 Pearson: Now we have Local Projects updates. We're missing a chunk of our local
17 representation. City of Las Cruces, I was going to ask about the status of
18 the La Llorona Trail and if there was any information on, well the TAP
19 projects, the extension of La Llorona and the, behind the dam project.

20
21 Murphy: Mr. Chair. We can certainly get, get those definitely from the minutes of
22 the TAC. If I remember correctly the City, the City notified their, the, the
23 Technical Advisory Committee that those two projects are going to be
24 bidding soon or they have recently bid but we will, we'll ...

25
26 Pearson: But La Llorona one is substantially done.

27
28 Murphy: That's, that's correct and then it's the Las Cruces Dam that's bidding.

29
30 Pearson: Okay. That's still onto the bidding process.

31
32 Murphy: See give me two weeks and my memory's, memory's gone but we do
33 have, we do have those in the minutes for the TAC so we can probably,
34 probably get ...

35
36 Pearson: Okay.

37
38 Murphy: Get you an update on those projects.

39
40 Pearson: Cause it, I drove on the La Llorona one and it looks like the construction is
41 done but it looks like they're going to do some repairs. There were some
42 red Xs on some of the slabs so they, looks like they need to be replaced. I
43 don't know about the, the furniture items or anything else on that, about
44 how close they are to closing that out after, I guess that's the only thing
45 that I'd be interested in is how much further until the project's actually
46 done.

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 come back and go the other direction so that traffic control is not
2 conflicting between those two construction sites.
3 That contractor also got the award for the next phase of I-10 which
4 is from the I-10/I-25 interchange to the Texas state line so we imagine if
5 they finish this portion they'll skip over the bridge, go to the other side, and
6 then come back when the bridge is done so that there's no ...
7
8 Pearson: So that ...
9
10 Herrera: Conflicting traffic control.
11
12 Pearson: The six lanes needs work already?
13
14 Herrera: Yes. When we rebuilt the new lane we didn't do anything to the, the two
15 existing lanes except add an overlay so now those need to be ...
16
17 Pearson: So it's just the, the two lanes, it's ...
18
19 Herrera: Right. It's not the new one that was just built not too long ago.
20
21 Pearson: That won't help with people complaining about the traffic though.
22
23 Herrera: No. It definitely won't. But the good news is after that's done all of I-10
24 from the Texas state line to Corralitos should be good for hopefully you
25 know 10, 15 years, and the bridges for a lot longer.
26
27 Curry: Ms. Herrera. What's the timeline for the Union bridge? Do you have any
28 idea?
29
30 Herrera: I do. According to our January spreadsheets it's halfway done.
31
32 Curry: Okay. Okay.
33
34 Herrera: I'm not really sure what exactly that means. I haven't had a chance to talk
35 to the project manager lately but he says halfway done on the
36 spreadsheet so ...
37
38 Curry: Okay.
39
40 Herrera: There's some light at the end of the tunnel.
41
42 Curry: Okay. Good. Thanks.
43
44 Herrera: The Missouri bridge is moving along quickly. We hope to be done with
45 that one by the end of March. It got pushed back a little bit just due to
46 weather and then some delays with delivery of beams for the bridge but

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: Right.
2
3 Pearson: It's one of those things that would, I would notice so I was surprised that I
4 didn't notice it.
5
6 Herrera: Well and the other, the other thing too is that some of those, the
7 intermittent closures of roads happen sort of quickly so they might not
8 have time to put them in the paper but we definitely do send out press
9 releases for those.
10
11 Pearson: Right. Closing the Conway ramp ...
12
13 Herrera: Right.
14
15 Pearson: Is kind of a big deal.
16
17 Herrera: Yeah that is a big deal, and that one should've probably been in the paper.
18 I know that we've had public meetings and that there have been press
19 releases.
20
21 Pearson: Cause I know that, I think it happened right around some of the holidays.
22
23 Herrera: Right.
24
25 Pearson: And I saw, you have a sign with a detour, I saw the arrow was down so I
26 thought that was interesting and then the arrow's pointing, you know
27 pointing the other direction.
28
29 Herrera: We've received some calls and hopefully fixed all of those issues.
30
31 Pearson: Okay.
32
33 Herrera: But I will definitely make sure anybody who wants to be added to that
34 distribution list for press releases please see me, make sure I have your e-
35 mail addresses and I'll make sure you're added to the list for those.
36
37 Pearson: Okay. And I guess let's talk about the TAP stuff and how that's changed
38 and I guess the specific question of the Safe Routes to School program is
39 funded through some date and what will be needed in order to continue
40 that, or apply for it at least.
41
42 Herrera: For the Safe Routes to School Coordinator position?
43
44 Pearson: Yes.
45

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 probably release the call to the MPOs and the RTPOs shortly after that in
2 hopes to have the deadline for applications be either late August or early
3 September sometime. We haven't set those dates exactly yet. The MPO
4 process will have to be built into that as far as if you guys are planning on
5 doing feasibility reviews or if you require any additional documentation.
6 We basically say you know, "Here's the application." If the MPO has any
7 other processes that they'd like to follow like going through this Committee
8 and the TAC and the Policy Committee, well that's really up to them to set
9 those internal deadlines.

10
11 Rochelle: Do you have the, Mr. Chair, oops, you have to pardon my ignorance. I'm
12 like Mr. Bencomo. I'm trying to play catch-up here. I actually don't know
13 what you mean when you refer to the guidebook.

14
15 Herrera: Sorry about that. The, we're talking about two sources of funding. One of
16 them's called Transportation Alternatives Program and one of them is
17 called Recreational Trails Program.

18
19 Rochelle: Got that.

20
21 Herrera: So these are funding sources available through the State to local
22 governments for alternative modes of transportation. So for bikes, for
23 pedestrians, those kinds of things. And so the guidebook I'm referring to
24 is the rules for those two programs as we run it in our state.

25
26 Rochelle: Okay.

27
28 Pearson: Do you know what the matching percentage is?

29
30 Herrera: It's 14.56% for both programs.

31
32 Pearson: Okay. So that's unchanged.

33
34 Herrera: Right.

35
36 Pearson: Because if we get credit for, cause at the national level it's 20% so if we
37 get extra credit because of all the federal lands or something then we ...

38
39 Herrera: Yes.

40
41 Pearson: Have a payment.

42
43 Herrera: Yes.

44
45 Pearson: In lieu of taxes.

46

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 have, I would love for this Committee to get together in a, I don't know if
2 you want to call it a work session, a brainstorming session, something
3 and sit down and look at this map and start in our own minds starting to
4 say, "Hey I think this kind of connectivity would work," or "This ditch/canal
5 would work," or I mean, cause we're already talking about if we went
6 through campus where would it go. How would we, how would we do it?
7 And, and I am, maybe I'm wrong but I'm assuming as a, as a, the
8 Pedestrian Committee Member representing the community because I'm
9 out on those streets and roads using them that that would be my place is
10 to give input and say, "I think we should have connectivity here, I think we
11 should have paths here." So, but it would be great to get this Committee
12 together at, at a brainstorming session, whatever we want to call it and
13 just kind of start throwing our ideas down and, and what we may be want
14 to do with that. Does, is this, does this Committee do those thing, kind of
15 things, have they?
16

17 Pearson: Well that's how the map came together in the first place.

18
19 Wray: Mr. Chair, Mr. Bencomo. As the Chair said earlier in the meeting a, a
20 follow-up to the, the southern leg of the, the multiuse trail loop could be a
21 reexamination so that, that's already kind of been alluded to this evening,
22 doing just that. It's just that given the timeline that, if we're wanting to get
23 TAP funding this cycle we really need to focus in on the specific project.
24 But we, we certainly can examine the entire trail network and trail priorities
25 plan as a whole as part of the function of this Committee.
26

27 Bencomo: Okay. Yeah, that, that'd be great. And I understand that the timeline so if,
28 if that's the piece we need to focus on first maybe it would be great but I
29 would like to look at the whole plan too and see, I mean as, as a
30 Committee Member and especially as a new Committee Member and we
31 have another new Committee Member and, and based on what we kind of
32 talked about today with the removal of members and then maybe possibly
33 needing a new member so now we're going to have three fairly new
34 members. So maybe it's a, it's a good time to, to revisit and re-look at this
35 and brainstorm it again and see if any new ideas come up so, just a
36 suggestion. If we could do that, that, I'm willing to meet and do those type
37 of things.
38

39 Pearson: Cause the same could be applied to the bicycle priorities map too I'm sure.
40 It hasn't really been looked at in some amount of time.
41

42 Herrera: Mr. Chair. I think we've had this conversation probably three or four times
43 but I thought at one point we were going to set priorities or goals for this
44 Committee at the beginning of the year so that we sort of know what
45 direction we're going or what specific things we want to work on. I mean
46 maybe that's something that we want to put on the list for this year.

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 from well not just from the DOT whereas the TAP projects are picked by
2 DOT, a DOT committee.
3
4 Pearson: Right.
5
6 Curry: So is it possible for, and I don't know how it would work if the Town of
7 Mesilla wanted to apply for, you know whether it's the Rec Trails or
8 whether it's the TAP funds at the same time, I'm thinking if it's a two-year
9 cycle and we miss this one puts us really far out. What if the Town of
10 Mesilla applied for the, for that portion and we're, and again I mean that
11 study would need to be done like Mr. Bencomo said, you know kind of
12 figure out where a trail would be and then the City applies for another or
13 who's, who would be the applying entity here?
14
15 Herrera: That would ...
16
17 Curry: Just whomever, so ...
18
19 Herrera: That would have to be worked out. The only, the only stipulation is that
20 the DOT is not eligible for those funds so it has to be a local government.
21
22 Curry: So theoretically we could put in two applications, one that's the City or
23 NMSU, is NMSU eligible?
24
25 Herrera: Yes.
26
27 Curry: So we could put in three, we could put in NMSU and the City and the
28 Town of Mesilla, all that would sort of be the same project worked on but
29 different pieces of the, of the project.
30
31 Herrera: Yes and I think that would be a really good idea.
32
33 Curry: Okay.
34
35 Herrera: If you can show partnership between different entities completing things
36 like the bicycle loop that's a priority for this MPO, those are things that give
37 you more sort of points in the application process.
38
39 Curry: Okay.
40
41 Pearson: So the Town of Mesilla could look at completing the La Llorona up to Calle
42 del Norte so that you could actually ride it on a bicycle.
43
44 Rochelle: Right.
45
46 Curry: Right.

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 Herrera: The only problem with that is that that's something that we look at in the
2 criteria for when we're awarding projects so if we were to give someone
3 funding, they weren't able to use it, they might not score as high in, in ...
4
5 Curry: Future.
6
7 Herrera: Future funding (*inaudible*).
8
9 Curry: Right. Yeah. That makes sense.
10
11 Bencomo: Mr. Chair.
12
13 Pearson: Yes.
14
15 Bencomo: Comment. So I, I, I'm guessing when you apply for those funds you, it's,
16 it's almost natural that you have to show that you already have, "This is
17 how we're going to match our portion."
18
19 Herrera: Right.
20
21 Bencomo: If you can't show that then you're probably not going to even be awarded.
22
23 Herrera: Right.
24
25 Bencomo: So my question also is this project, the, especially going underneath ...
26
27 Herrera: University.
28
29 Bencomo: University and Triviz, sorry. Lost my brain a minute there. So one side is
30 the City, the other side is NMSU and then if we're talking the loop, so can
31 there be a joint application, all three entities on one application or does it
32 have to be three separate ones?
33
34 Herrera: No. I would suggest if that's, if that's the route that the three entities want
35 to go to do one joint application.
36
37 Bencomo: Okay. And then my next question is: Is that something the MPO would
38 drive since it's three different local governmental entities but it's within the
39 same MPO or does that have to be done separately? I don't, I don't know
40 how all the nuts and bolts of that.
41
42 Herrera: I think the MPO can help with some of the technical aspects and maybe
43 filling out the application. I can also help with that. But really it's, it's on
44 the local governments ...
45
46 Bencomo: Yeah.

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 sponsoring organization. City of Las Cruces is sponsoring, or supporting
2 it. We'll be looking for any other support that people might be interested
3 in. Probably want to talk to Jolene about NMDOT participation. Rosa has
4 participated previously in our panel discussion that we have.

5 Prior to that we're, there's going to be an LCI seminar, League
6 Cycling Instructor seminar which is the training to receive to be certified as
7 a League Cycling Instructor. If anybody's interested in pursuing that there
8 is a prerequisite course, the Traffic Skills 101 and that's planned for
9 February and that could be useful. Law enforcement up in Albuquerque,
10 the Bernalillo County Sheriffs have some LCIs and they use that as part of
11 their public, public contact and that helps them understand how cyclists
12 should be riding in the roadway and that's what that training really is, is
13 learn how to ride safely. The LCI is the teach the teacher kind of thing so
14 then once you're an LCI then you can hold classes and help people ride
15 safely in our environment. Any other comments from anybody?
16

17 **9. PUBLIC COMMENT**

18 - NO PUBLIC WAS IN ATTENDANCE
19
20

21 **10. ADJOURNMENT (6:27)**
22

23 Pearson: Hear a motion to adjourn.
24

25 Bencomo: So moved.
26

27 Herrera: Second.
28

29 Rochelle: I have a comment actually. It's minor but I looked on the MPO website
30 and there, there's no listing for the members of it, of committees and I
31 would find that helpful in terms of just simple communication.
32

33 Wray: Mr. Chair.
34

35 Rochelle: Or is there?
36

37 Wray: Mr. Rochelle. That is by design.
38

39 Rochelle: Oh. Okay.
40

41 Wray: We, we consciously made an, a decision not to include listing of, I can
42 speak to you privately after the meeting's over. I don't want to take up
43 everyone else's ...
44

45 Rochelle: Right.
46

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 _____
38 Chairperson
39
40

