

1 **MESILLA VALLEY METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION**
2 **POLICY COMMITTEE**

3
4 The following are minutes for the meeting of the Mesilla Valley Metropolitan Planning
5 Organization (MPO) Policy Committee which was held January 11, 2017 at 1:00 p.m. in
6 Commission Chambers at Dona Ana County Government Building, 845 Motel Blvd., Las
7 Cruces, New Mexico.

8
9 **MEMBERS PRESENT:** Mayor Nora Barraza (Town of Mesilla) (departed 2:44)
10 Trent Doolittle (NMDOT)
11 Councillor Jack Eakman (CLC)
12 Trustee Linda Flores (Town of Mesilla)
13 Councillor Olga Pedroza (CLC) (departed 2:46)
14 Councillor Gill Sorg (CLC)
15 Commissioner John Vasquez (DAC)
16

17 **MEMBERS ABSENT:** Commissioner Benjamin Rawson (DAC)
18 Commissioner Isabella Solis (DAC)
19 Trustee Carlos Arzabal (TOM)
20

21 **STAFF PRESENT:** Tom Murphy (MPO staff)
22 Andrew Wray (MPO staff)
23 Michael McAdams (MPO staff)
24 Dominic Loya (MPO Staff)
25

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

28 **1. CALL TO ORDER (1:27 PM)**

29
30 Sorg: We have a quorum at this time which is about 1:27 in the afternoon and so
31 I'll call the meeting to order. I want to welcome our new members from the
32 County, Mr. John Vasquez, the County Commissioner from District 5 and
33 so welcome.
34

35 **2. ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

36
37 Sorg: The next order of business is the election of officers. There is the office of
38 the Chairman and office of Vice-Chairman are the only two that we'll be
39 having an election for. And so what I'm going to do is open it up to begin
40 with the Chairman's position. I'll accept nominations for that. Tom would
41 you like to say anything about the elections first? No?
42

43 Murphy: No.

44
45 Barraza: Mr. Chair.
46

1 Sorg: Yes Mayor Barraza.
2
3 Barraza: I just have a quick question. I know that in the past we've kind of been
4 rotating from different entities. Can you tell me more or less whose entity
5 is up for Chairperson?
6
7 Murphy: Yes Mr. Chair, Mayor Barraza. Traditionally the MPO has rotated the
8 Chair and the Vice-Chair through the different members. This past year
9 the City was holding the Chair and the County held the Vice-Chair. Under
10 the traditional rotation the County would then have the Chair and then
11 Mesilla would have the Vice-Chair. And just so you know I would like to
12 point out that it's just been a tradition of this Committee and it is not
13 established in our Joint Powers Agreement or bylaws. So you may
14 choose to stick with the tradition or you may choose to do it a different
15 way.
16
17 Sorg: Excuse me, I apologize. There's been a request that we have a Pledge of
18 Allegiance before we continue.
19
20 Barraza: You're absolutely correct.
21
22 Sorg: Okay. So would Mr. Eakman lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance?
23
24 ALL STAND FOR PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.
25
26 Sorg: Okay. Trustee Flores. You had a question.
27
28 Flores: I just have a comment. I don't think it's fair to throw a Commissioner in as
29 a Chair seeing as they don't have the experience and I know there's a lot
30 of reading that you're given as soon as you're on this Committee. So I for
31 one am not going to vote for a Commissioner, nothing personal, as a
32 Chair just because I think it takes a while to, the tradition has been that the
33 Chair and the Vice-Chair have had some time on the Committee, and for
34 that reason I'm not even going to consider that.
35
36 Barraza: Mr. Chair.
37
38 Sorg: Yes.
39
40 Barraza: I just want to, do we know, I know that the County Commissioners had a
41 reorganizational meeting per se yesterday. Who are the Members now to
42 the MPO, to the Mesilla Valley MPO? Are we aware other than
43 Commissioner Vasquez?
44
45 Sorg: Yes.
46

1 Murphy: Mr. Chair, Mayor Barraza. We were notified this morning, that is
2 Commissioner Vasquez, Commissioner Solis, and Commissioner
3 Rawson.
4
5 Barraza: Okay. And has Commissioner Rawson been on the, I think he was one of
6 our members was he not?
7
8 Flores: No.
9
10 Murphy: He was not.
11
12 Barraza: He was not, okay. Maybe he was, oh, RTD, a different one. I'm sorry.
13 Different Committee. Thank you sir.
14
15 Vasquez: Mr. Chair. May I speak?
16
17 Sorg: Yes.
18
19 Vasquez: Though I am new to the Commission I do have parliamentary procedure
20 knowledge. I am the past Parliamentarian for the Democratic Party of
21 Dona Ana County and also am the former Chairman of the Colorado
22 Chicano Caucus. But with that being said I would humbly ask to not be
23 the Chair as I feel I would like to get a better understanding of the MPO
24 and become an active participant prior to chairing the organization. So I
25 do appreciate your comments ma'am and I support what you said.
26
27 Sorg: So.
28
29 Barraza: Mr. Chair.
30
31 Sorg: Is there a nomination for a Chairman?
32
33 Barraza: Mr. Chair.
34
35 Sorg: Yes.
36
37 Barraza: That being said, I would like to nominate Trustee Linda Flores for the
38 position of Chairperson of the Mesilla Valley MPO.
39
40 Eakman: I would like to second that nomination.
41
42 Sorg: Okay. It's been nominated and second that Trustee Flores would be the
43 Chairman. Is there any other nominations? Any other nominations? Last
44 call. No other nominations so therefore we'll vote on just Trustee Flores.
45
46 Murphy: Mayor Barraza.

1
2 Barraza: Aye.
3
4 Murphy: Trustee Flores.
5
6 Flores: Yes.
7
8 Murphy: Councillor Pedroza.
9
10 Pedroza: Yes.
11
12 Murphy: Mr. Doolittle.
13
14 Doolittle: Yes.
15
16 Murphy: Councillor Eakman.
17
18 Eakman: Yes.
19
20 Murphy: Commissioner Vasquez.
21
22 Vasquez: Yes.
23
24 Murphy: And Councillor Sorg.
25
26 Sorg: Yes.
27
28 MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY.
29
30 Sorg: Okay. Shall we do the Vice-Chair and then you can take over that, would
31 you rather do it now?
32
33 Flores: No. Vice-Chair is fine.
34
35 Sorg: Okay. So are there any nominations for the Vice-Chair?
36
37 Barraza: Mr. Chair.
38
39 Sorg: Yes.
40
41 Barraza: I would like to nominate someone from the County and being that
42 Commissioner Vasquez is present, I would like to nominate Commissioner
43 Vasquez.
44
45 Sorg: Okay. Is there a second?
46

1 Eakman: I would second.
2
3 Sorg: Mr. Eakman seconds it. Any other nominations for Vice-Chair? Seeing
4 none, let's vote on the Vice-Chair position. Mr. Murphy.
5
6 Murphy: Mayor Barraza.
7
8 Barraza: Yes.
9
10 Murphy: Trustee Flores.
11
12 Flores: Yes.
13
14 Murphy: Councillor Pedroza.
15
16 Pedroza: Yes.
17
18 Murphy: Mr. Doolittle.
19
20 Doolittle: Yes.
21
22 Murphy: Councillor Eakman.
23
24 Eakman: Yes.
25
26 Murphy: Commissioner Vasquez.
27
28 Vasquez: Yes.
29
30 Murphy: Councillor Sorg.
31
32 Sorg: Yes.
33
34 MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY.
35
36 Sorg: And with that I'll turn the meeting over to our new Chairman, Trustee
37 Flores.
38
39 Flores: Is it all right if I lead from here? I don't need to sit on his chair. I'm fine.
40 Okay.
41
42 **3. CONFLICT OF INTEREST INQUIRY**
43
44 Flores: Then I will start with the third item on the agenda, the conflict of interest
45 inquiry. Does any member have any known or perceived conflict of
46 interest with any item on the agenda? If so that Committee Member may

1 recuse themselves from voting on any specific matter or if they feel that
2 they can be impartial we will put their participation up for a vote by the rest
3 of the Committee.
4

5 Sorg: None.
6

7 Barraza: None.
8

9 Flores: Seeing none.
10

11 Pedroza: No conflict.
12

13 **4. PUBLIC COMMENT**
14

15 Flores: I will move to public comment. Is there anyone in the public that would
16 like to make a comment? Seeing none.
17

18 **5. CONSENT AGENDA ***
19

20 Flores: We'll move on to the consent agenda.
21

22 Sorg: Move to accept the agenda.
23

24 Eakman: Second.
25

26 Flores: Okay. So that was moved by Councillor Sorg and seconded by Councillor
27 Eakman. Do we take a vote on that?
28

29 Murphy: Take a vote, yeah. Acclamation or roll call.
30

31 Barraza: Madam Chair.
32

33 Flores: Yes.
34

35 Barraza: I think we probably should take a vote since there is a resolution on the
36 consent agenda certifying compliance with the Open Meetings Act for the
37 2017 calendar year.
38

39 Flores: Okay.
40

41 Barraza: So I would recommend we take a roll call vote.
42

43 Flores: Okay. Does anybody want to have any comment besides that?
44

45 Sorg: I agree with the Mayor.
46

1 Flores: Then we'll move on to a roll call vote.

2

3 Murphy: Mayor Barraza.

4

5 Barraza: Yes.

6

7 Murphy: Councillor Pedroza.

8

9 Pedroza: Yes.

10

11 Murphy: Mr. Doolittle.

12

13 Doolittle: Yes.

14

15 Murphy: Councillor Sorg.

16

17 Sorg: Yes.

18

19 Murphy: Councillor Eakman.

20

21 Eakman: Yes.

22

23 Murphy: Commissioner Vasquez.

24

25 Vasquez: Yes.

26

27 Murphy: And Chair.

28

29 Flores: Yes.

30

31 MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY.

32

33 **6. * APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

34

35 **6.1 * December 10, 2016**

36

37 - VOTED ON VIA THE CONSENT AGENDA

38

39 **7. ACTION ITEMS**

40

41 **7.1 * Resolution 17-01: A Resolution Certifying Compliance with the**
42 **Open Meetings Act for 2017 Calendar Year by the Mesilla Valley MPO**

43

44 - VOTED ON VIA THE CONSENT AGENDA

45

1 **7.2 Resolution 16-18: A Resolution Rescinding the Camino Real**
2 **Consortium of MPO Project Priorities (Resolution 16-15) and**
3 **Advising the Camino Real Consortium of New MPO Project Priorities.**
4

5 Flores: Okay. So we'll move along to action items and 7.1, oh wait, that was on
6 the consent, sorry. 7.2, Resolution 16-18: A resolution rescinding the
7 Camino Real Consortium project priorities and advising the Camino Real
8 Consortium of new MPO project priorities. And I will let you kind of
9 explain, okay.

10
11 Sorg: I move to approve this resolution.

12
13 Barraza: And I will second.

14
15 Flores: And that was moved by Councillor Sorg. In the future if you can state who
16 you are when you're moving or seconding just to make it easier for people
17 keeping records. I'll let Mr. Murphy explain kind of why this is a little more
18 than what it would've been last month.

19
20 Murphy: Thank you Madam Chair. Just to recap, back in November I think it
21 started, the Regional Leadership Consortium had asked its participating
22 members to put together a list of priority projects so that they may utilize
23 that to speak with State Representatives and others to get momentum
24 behind the projects of importance around the region. So the past couple
25 of meetings we have been discussing projects that are of importance to
26 the MPO. We had developed a list that essentially came from projects
27 that were spelled out in our Metropolitan Transportation Plan and I believe
28 it was at last month's meeting we had the discussion and I'm trying to
29 remember where we ended up but ...

30
31 Flores: I think I can fill in. I ...

32
33 Murphy: Thank you.

34
35 Flores: Had remembered that Councillor Eakman had wanted to go ahead and
36 vote. The Consortium head said, "We don't have any money but maybe
37 one thing came out as an idea at one of our meetings was we could
38 possibly get each member to come up with three items that they wanted to
39 promote from their ICPs and we could all, as the Consortium, we could
40 vote on three of those items, whichever ones were the best," and they
41 could take that to the Legislature. That could be something to help
42 promote what they had on their lists. And so initially the MPO had decided
43 just to give them our whole list that we had, just as educational purposes
44 to let people know what we had on our list. And Councillor Eakman said
45 he would like to have the opportunity to vote on particular projects. So at
46 the last meeting I said basically the RLC which are the voting members of

1 Viva Dona Ana had decided to postpone deciding on picking those three
2 projects until this meeting coming up this month, which is January 27th.
3 So I said we had the opportunity as a Board, if the Board wanted to, to
4 vote on three projects, three of our projects and we had decided to go
5 ahead and do that. But we did not have very many Commissioners at the
6 last meeting so we decided to wait until this meeting to do that. So do you
7 want to continue?
8

9 Murphy: Okay. So with that I guess what staff would be looking for is out of our list,
10 do we continue to submit the whole list of projects that came up through
11 the public participation process that populate the Metropolitan
12 Transportation Plan or do Members of this body want to single out one to
13 three projects that are of particular interest that they would like to see
14 further championed at that level? And with that I'll leave it to your
15 discussion.
16

17 Barraza: Madam Chair.
18

19 Flores: Mayor Barraza.
20

21 Barraza: Thank you Madam Chair. I guess my thought is first of all is it too late to
22 submit something to the priority list through the Camino Real Consortium.
23 And I don't know when they are meeting again to be able to put their list
24 together because I know that they have asked the entities that are
25 participating or members of the Consortium to put together a list and I'm
26 assuming from that list they're going to compile all the lists and from there
27 they're going to make a selection to submit to the legislators. Is that the
28 process? Am I understanding the process correctly?
29

30 Flores: That is how I understand it except I'll put a caveat. At our last meeting that
31 we had of the RLC, we had said that it didn't have to be from any
32 particular entity. The entities had a right to promote any project that they
33 thought was important whether they had it on their ICP or even, because
34 we have some nonprofit organizations and so they don't have ICPs and so
35 we wanted to give them the opportunity to say, "You know that particular
36 project that the County's doing or the City's doing, that could help our
37 organization or we think that that would be good for the community." So
38 any ...
39

40 Barraza: Okay. So I guess my question is, is it too late? I mean when is the
41 Camino Real Consortium going to be meeting again to make a
42 determination what projects they're going to support and give to the
43 Legislators? And so I'm wondering do we even go forward with this, is it
44 worth moving forward with the project or not?
45

1 Flores: I'm going to go ahead and say I'm all right with going ahead and picking
2 three. Here's the problem, is the Commission just decided not to
3 participate and not to put a Commissioner on that Board of the RLC and
4 so as far as I know we're still having the meeting on January 27th. I
5 haven't been told otherwise and the staff will still be there and everybody
6 else will be able to be a voting member so, but after that I can't speak for
7 what's going to happen to the RLC. I hope, and I will advocate that we try
8 and find a meeting place somewhere else if it's not going to be at the
9 County and that we still try and go forward because \$2 million was given
10 to the County and to the Viva Dona Ana group to make plans and I think it
11 would be very sad to kind of have these plans made and not try and
12 promote them. So that's my personal position but if anybody has any
13 other feelings about it.
14

15 Barraza: Okay. I just want to follow up with another, this'll be my last question on
16 this. Is this item going to be on the agenda for your meeting at the
17 Camino Real Consortium on prioritizing the lists that were submitted to the
18 Consortium from all the members, I guess of the Consortium?
19

20 Flores: It was agreed at the last meeting that this would be on the agenda and
21 that's basically, and Olga can correct me if I'm wrong, that was the main
22 thing that we were going to do at this next meeting.
23

24 Pedroza: My comment is that it's becoming very very confusing as to exactly how
25 we should go forward because of the changes that I have heard about,
26 read about in the newspaper, heard about and it would certainly be nice to
27 say, "These are the projects that we think should be promoted, should be
28 accepted," but if there is one last meeting and then it falls apart I think
29 we've spun our wheels. I would almost move to table and wait and see
30 what happens on the 26th and then we can say, "Okay, it is alive and
31 well," and we can go ahead and continue from there. We have reviewed
32 the items on the MPO priority list. I have talked to the City about the items
33 that the City would be interested in. But I think we all have an awful lot of
34 work to do to not be going around saying, "Okay. Let's spin our wheels for
35 another two weeks and then see what happens." So if it's proper I would
36 move to table this until after that, is it 26th?
37

38 Flores: January 27th is the next ...
39

40 Pedroza: January 27th.
41

42 Flores: Is the next RLC meeting.
43

44 Pedroza: Yeah. And then our next meeting is February the what?
45

46 Murphy: Eighth I believe.

1
2 Pedroza: Eighth, which at that point maybe we'll know better. "Yes, we're going
3 forward. We have a place. We have a staff. We have everything ready to
4 go." Or there's nothing left and there's no reason to say, "We picked these
5 three because these three are the ones that we really need and we really
6 want," and nothing happens.
7
8 Flores: All right. Anyone else? Councillor Sorg.
9
10 Sorg: Thank you Madam Chair. I'm listening very carefully to the conversations
11 going on here and I understand, I think I understand anyway, maybe I
12 don't completely understand what's all being suggested here but would
13 there be any harm in us going through the exercise of picking the top
14 three? And if they're used fine, and if they're not used maybe they could
15 be used by the DOT for their reference in the future. I don't know, I'm just
16 asking if that's the case. Would Mr. Murphy or anybody else on the panel
17 here know?
18
19 Murphy: Madam Chair, Councillor Sorg. That would be the prerogative of the
20 Board.
21
22 Flores: I don't see any harm coming from that as my personal opinion, but I
23 understand Councillor Pedroza's feelings about not wanting to spin her
24 wheels. I just already stated my views ...
25
26 Pedroza: And there has not been a second as well and the motion to table so that's
27 the ...
28
29 Barraza: Yeah, well and I agree with Councillor Pedroza is taking time to review it
30 whereas like Commissioner Vasquez is probably not even familiar with the
31 projects that are listed on the list that he would be comfortable voting on
32 bringing forth any of the projects. So I would definitely agree with
33 Councillor Pedroza.
34
35 Flores: Are you seconding her motion to postpone?
36
37 Barraza: Yes. I will second her motion.
38
39 Flores: Okay. Councillor Eakman.
40
41 Eakman: Thank you Madam Chair.
42
43 Sorg: *(Inaudible)*
44
45 Flores: There's no second? But we didn't vote.
46

1 Murphy: Madam Chair.
2
3 Sorg: We have to vote now.
4
5 Murphy: Madam Chair. I need to interject. I believe that we'd have to have the
6 original motion withdrawn before there can be a motion to table.
7
8 Flores: Okay.
9
10 Barraza: Did I make the original motion?
11
12 BOARD MEMBERS SPEAKING WITH THE MICROPHONES OFF.
13
14 Murphy: Okay. I will defer.
15
16 Sorg: *(Inaudible)*
17
18 Vasquez: Technically you're both right. Now depending on which set of rules you're
19 going by, Robert's Rules of Order, or there's also another set of rules that
20 people use. But you're both right in this case. You could go ahead and
21 just table it because the motion was made and there was discussion, and I
22 believe you could table it if someone chooses to table it because the
23 motion has been made.
24
25 Sorg: It's already been moved.
26
27 Vasquez: It's moved, yeah, so we can vote.
28
29 Barraza: Yeah, to table.
30
31 Murphy: So voting on the tabling. Okay. Mayor Barraza.
32
33 Barraza: I am voting yes to table.
34
35 Murphy: Councillor Pedroza.
36
37 Pedroza: Yes to table.
38
39 Murphy: Mr. Doolittle.
40
41 Doolittle: I believe I'm going to abstain as a DOT who would ultimately evaluate
42 even the projects later for possible funding. I was going to abstain on the
43 original vote anyway so from my perspective as a DOT I'm going to remain
44 neutral and abstain.
45
46 Murphy: Councillor Sorg.

1
2 Sorg: No.
3
4 Murphy: Councillor Eakman.
5
6 Eakman: No.
7
8 Murphy: Commissioner Vasquez.
9
10 Vasquez: No.
11
12 Murphy: And Chair?
13
14 Flores: No.
15
16 MOTION FAILS.
17
18 Murphy: The motion is defeated.
19
20 Flores: All right. And in that case Councillor Eakman had looked like he wanted to
21 make a comment.
22
23 Eakman: Yes I did.
24
25 Baum: You're not on the microphone.
26
27 Eakman: I am now on the microphone. The City Councillors did get together and
28 pick their projects and would like to bring them forward for discussion, in
29 that Councillor Pedroza and I agreed on one project and I think Councillor
30 Sorg has one he would like to mention. But we'd like to mention the
31 intersection of El Paseo and Idaho as we brought up last month as a
32 possibility, and seeing what can be done for more pedestrian safety at that
33 intersection. Is that right Councillor Pedroza?
34
35 Pedroza: Absolutely, Councillor. I want to just to add that that particular intersection
36 has a history of an awful lot of accidents. I have never seen an
37 automobile accident, but I have seen pedestrians put in danger, especially
38 those who are on either wheelchairs or those little motor scooters. The
39 lighting needs to be addressed so that they can more safely cross those
40 intersections. Thank you.
41
42 Eakman: And if I might add to that, the thing I witness at that intersection is right
43 turns on red being quite a hazard to pedestrians at that intersection. It's
44 like the drivers don't see any pedestrians out there attempting to cross.
45

1 Flores: It's occurred to me that, and I apologize but we have a new Member here
2 and in the past Members have gotten the "Toward a Better Future, Values,
3 Visions, Livability Principles." I know I gave a copy to Councillor Eakman
4 at the last meeting. One of the things that we're supposed to do is not just
5 say what projects we would like to come from our entities but look at the
6 livability principles that Viva Dona Ana was advancing and I'll just give you
7 a little bit of a history. We went out and asked people, the HUD had their,
8 the Federal Government had their livability principles but we asked our
9 community what was important to them, what they wanted us to look at
10 when we decided on projects and how we shape our community and we
11 came up with our own livability principles, things that we wanted to
12 promote and we have a list of them. We put that list down and this is what
13 we want to do, is consider these when we're considering projects,
14 consider our livability principles that our community has told us is
15 important to them and so this exercise is basically a way for us to say,
16 "Here are the projects. These are our livability principles and we think
17 these particular projects advance those principles." And so if you don't
18 mind I'll give you my copy now and I apologize, and it's just a structural
19 thing that you haven't had a chance to look it over, but if you would like to
20 look at it, and that's my own copy and I have notes written in there and I
21 apologize but.
22
23 Vasquez: Thank you very much. I will review it as briefly as I can and I'll make a
24 copy when we're done here and I'll let you take that one back.
25
26 Flores: Okay. That's fine.
27
28 Vasquez: Okay. Thank you.
29
30 Flores: So where are we at?
31
32 Barraza: Madam Chair. So at this time are we soliciting ...
33
34 Flores: Yeah.
35
36 Barraza: For projects ...
37
38 Flores: That's what I was just about ...
39
40 Barraza: Coming forth?
41
42 Flores: To say. Does anybody else have any other projects that they would like to
43 advocate for that they think fit the livability principles?
44
45 Sorg: Madam Chair.
46

1 Flores: Well actually Mayor Barraza had the floor and afterwards I'll let you have
2 it.
3

4 Barraza: Madam Chair. And looking over Exhibit A that was provided in our packet
5 there were a couple of projects there that I think would benefit the
6 community as a whole, and one was the connection to the Bosque Park
7 with the improvement of the bridge crossing on Calle del Norte which is
8 the proposed Tier 1 Trail System Priorities Plan, and then the other was
9 on University. They are projects already funded on TIP which are for the
10 pedestrian crossing improvements on University and I guess the MPO has
11 coordinated this with the City of Las Cruces. And of course I would
12 definitely advocate for the Town of Mesilla for the sidewalk assessments.
13

14 Flores: Okay. So those are three and does staff have those written down? I want
15 to give Mr. Murphy a chance to catch up with us before I call on the next
16 person, and Councillor Sorg was next.
17

18 Barraza: Okay. And I just want to add to the assessment of the sidewalks in the
19 Town of Mesilla as we all know tourism is the economic development
20 portion of the Town of Mesilla and I think all of the community benefits
21 from that because we bring in the tourists and they use the City of Las
22 Cruces to utilize the hotels, the restaurants, and with the County with more
23 of the designation of the Organ Mountains National Peaks National
24 Monument, we're attracting more tourists to our community here, the
25 County here, and I think we could all benefit from that.
26

27 Flores: Thank you.
28

29 Barraza: Thank you.
30

31 Flores: Are you caught up?
32

33 Murphy: I'm caught up.
34

35 Flores: Okay then. I will call on Councillor Sorg.
36

37 Sorg: Thank you Madam Chair. The project I would like to put on the top of my
38 list is the Engler interchange, the "Requires Interstate Access" request.
39 This is an economic development project, to have those places where
40 workplaces are and also retail, commercial places are, to spread them out
41 and have them closer to where the people live. And then secondly is the
42 US-70/North Main bridge widening. Traffic congestion is very significant
43 there. And then if you want a third one, I just put down at the bottom of
44 that same page there, there is a term "Intersections: Adapting
45 intersections, striping for bicycle use per NACTO guidelines." We need to

1 have the City more bicycle-friendly so anything we can do about bicycling
2 in the City here I'd like to add that to it. Thank you Madam Chair.
3
4 Flores: I'm going to give Mr. Murphy a chance to catch up. Did you ...
5
6 Murphy: I got them all.
7
8 Flores: Annotate all that? Okay. Then next on the list then was Councillor
9 Pedroza.
10
11 Pedroza: Thank you Madam Chair. I just wanted to explain that the project picked
12 by the three MPO representatives who got together do in fact reflect the
13 livability principles. We're talking about the intersection of Idaho and El
14 Paseo and one, two, three, four. The fourth livability principle says, "We
15 want to live in vibrant communities that are safe, promote health, and offer
16 expanded choices in housing and transportation." If that particular project
17 were picked, changing the safety on that particular intersection it would tie
18 in very well with that livability principle. The next one says, "We require
19 government services, utilities, and other infrastructure that meet essential
20 needs as efficiently and effectively as possible." Again that would do
21 exactly that. And finally the second-to-last livability principle that was
22 written by the Consortium was, "We believe that every development
23 decision is an opportunity to create a more desirable future while
24 protecting personal rights, community interests, and the environment." So
25 in putting forth that one project for the improvements of the safety and use
26 of the intersection at Idaho and El Paseo, we would in fact be promoting
27 the livability principles written by and espoused by the Regional
28 Leadership Consortium. Thank you.
29
30 Flores: I want to give the new Member, Commissioner Vasquez.
31
32 Vasquez: You know though I don't have any input on, is it okay if I speak Madam
33 Chair? One of the questions, and I was looking through the packet, I did
34 not see it. Are we, is there a set budget that we know of that we are
35 looking ...
36
37 Flores: No. And that's the problem, is Viva Dona Ana was basically the City, the
38 County, and some nonprofit groups, since then other communities,
39 ourselves, Mesilla has joined, Sunland Park, nonprofits joined and they
40 basically went and asked HUD and the Transportation Department for a
41 grant, got a \$2 million grant to make some plans, and plans have been
42 made and we still have this Consortium. We decided as a group to go
43 ahead, now that the plans have made not to let them just sit on a shelf, to
44 get together and try and promote some of our plans and to promote these
45 principles. And so this is like the next step, is "How do we get this going?"
46 And we wanted to try and leave ourselves open to get future grants and

1 we realized even if we don't have funding at the moment it's helpful when
2 you're trying to get funding for projects to as a group say, "Our whole
3 community agrees that this is a good project and this is the direction that
4 we want to go." And that's very helpful when you're talking to a State
5 Legislator or when you're talking to the Federal Government to be able to
6 say, "All these people agree," rather than just "My community wants this,
7 that it would be helpful." And so that's kind of where we're at now, we're
8 kind of in a transition mode. So does that, does anybody want to add to
9 that? Olga, did I get that right? And Mr. Murphy I know you've sat on the
10 meetings. Does that sound right to you? So and what we had, one of our
11 last meetings basically we had somebody from (*inaudible*) come and they
12 were talking about a particular project and that just came up. It was
13 decided, "Well we don't have any money now that we can spend
14 independently but perhaps what we can do is use the power of being this
15 group to be able to go to the Legislature and say these are the groups that
16 we've all met together and these are the three projects that we think are
17 really worthy." Because there's not a lot of money and hopefully that
18 would kind of help have a little more leverage than just one individual
19 community or one entity when you have the whole group speaking, that
20 that is a little more persuasive and so that was the hope. Is that good?

21
22 Vasquez: Yes. Thank you for that.

23
24 Flores: Okay. All right. So anybody else want to have any more comments? I
25 would agree about, I just want to say that I agree about the intersection of
26 El Paseo and I remember when I first got on the Committee and you'll be
27 getting a big packet, and one of the things that I vividly remember is I
28 happened to get one of the statistics on where the most accidents were
29 and that's one of the things that I looked at. And I remember vividly
30 seeing the intersection of Idaho and El Paseo and saying, "I'm not
31 surprised." Because I think that's a very dangerous intersection and
32 safety is one of our livability principles. In addition to that, having been on
33 Viva Dona Ana's Committee I know one of the things we were looking for
34 was an initial project that wouldn't cost too much money to try to get
35 visibility and kind of give a push to Viva Dona Ana as a whole, and one of
36 our possible projects was a bicycle lane because we thought that would
37 promote tourism. And so I think the Calle del Norte ties in nicely. I know
38 Steinborn was basically pushing for that, what is the term, the Rio Grande
39 Trail and that ties in nicely because that Calle del Norte would go right
40 from that trail there that goes all the way to La Llorona Park. And it would
41 be nice to have that loop completed and Mesilla's the last leg of that loop
42 and that has been on our long-term plans for the MPO since I got here
43 and before I got here. I don't know how long, has it been 15, 20 years?

44
45 Murphy: It was before I got here as well.
46

1 Flores: Okay. So it's been on our long-term plans. I think it would work well for
2 economic development. I think, you know I just got back from Arizona. I
3 went to Sedona and seeing those bike lanes. It's really nice and I know
4 they use that. They have a lot of bike races there and I think that would
5 be a tremendous push for the whole region, not just for Mesilla to be able
6 to have a closed loop and it would be really nice for tourists and just nice
7 for pedestrians and people that need to go to work that maybe can't afford
8 a car. So that's my two cents and how do we want to, you said you were
9 going to have a thing for voting if I remember correctly, that you were
10 going to have a ballot sheet or something. Is that correct or do I stand
11 corrected? I thought ...
12

13 Murphy: If I ...
14

15 Flores: Oh, that was for the next thing on the agenda item right, okay I'm
16 confusing it. Sorry. So how do we want to go forward with this? Go
17 ahead Councillor Pedroza.
18

19 Pedroza: I think that it would be very very helpful to me at any rate to get a very
20 short and quick list of the ones that have been suggested right now.
21 Because I know the Mayor has suggested one and Chair Flores has
22 suggested another, Councillor Eakman and myself had suggested another
23 one, Councillor Sorg has suggested two or possibly three. So if we could
24 just get a complete list. Thank you.
25

26 Murphy: Madam Chair, Councillor Pedroza. I will read the eight that I made notes
27 on that were mentioned. On page 28 of the packet, connection to the
28 Bosque Park; on page 29, the US-70/North Main bridge widening; the
29 Engler interchange; El Paseo and Idaho; and the intersections. And then
30 on page 30, Town of Mesilla sidewalk assessments and the University
31 pedestrian crossing improvements. I think I got every one of the ones that
32 you've mentioned.
33

34 Flores: Okay. So do you have paper? I'm just trying to think how we're going to
35 vote on this. I'm suggesting, and I'll let anybody else make a comment,
36 that maybe give us a sheet of paper and we put down our three, and then
37 see if we come up with a consensus, and then if there's a tie or something
38 we can go from there. Does that sound reasonable?
39

40 Barraza: Madam Chair. I don't mind us voting in open.
41

42 Flores: Oh okay.
43

44 Barraza: I mean versus, for staff to have to tabulate all the little sheets of paper I
45 think will be time-consuming.
46

1 Flores: Okay. Is everybody okay with Mayor Barraza's suggestion? All right then.
2 We'll start with ... okay.
3
4 Murphy: Okay. Mayor Barraza, your three, add to that?
5
6 Barraza: Do you just want to possibly just go down the eight that you just, and see
7 how many are in favor of that and then write that number down? Just go
8 down the list.
9
10 Murphy: Okay. All right. Connection to the Bosque Park.
11
12 Eakman: Point of clarification, Madam Chair. How many votes do we get?
13
14 Flores: I would assume that we get three votes since there's three positions, so
15 each person can vote three times on three different projects and then we'll
16 see from there. If there's a tie then we'll all get one more vote just to
17 break that one tie.
18
19 Eakman: Thank you for the clarification.
20
21 Flores: And actually Councillor, I don't know why I keep trying to promote you to
22 Commissioner. Councillor Pedroza would like to hear the list again.
23
24 Pedroza: Please. The Bosque ...
25
26 Murphy: Connection to Bosque Park, US-70/North Main bridge widening, Engler
27 interchange.
28
29 Pedroza: Hold on.
30
31 Murphy: Oh I'm sorry.
32
33 Pedroza: US-70 ...
34
35 Flores: Bridge widening.
36
37 Murphy: Bridge widening.
38
39 Pedroza: Okay.
40
41 Murphy: Engler interchange.
42
43 Pedroza: Engler interchange, okay.
44
45 Murphy: El Paseo and Idaho.
46

1 Pedroza: Okay. That's four so far?
2
3 Murphy: Yes. And then the one below that's the intersections. And the next page,
4 Town of Mesilla sidewalk assessments. And then finally the University
5 pedestrian crossing improvements. And I believe that's seven, not eight. I
6 had double counted, the one below sidewalk assessments I counted
7 twice.
8
9 Flores: Okay. So that's number seven, is the University pedestrian crossing
10 improvements.
11
12 Murphy: Yes.
13
14 Flores: And that's all that there is.
15
16 Murphy: And that's at the bottom of page 30 of your packet. It's the second, just
17 above the Rio Grande Trail on the bottom.
18
19 Pedroza: Madam Chair.
20
21 Sorg: You know that project's already funded though.
22
23 Pedroza: Yeah.
24
25 Sorg: That's done, done deal.
26
27 Flores: So actually that was something else that I had mentioned the last time,
28 was I think it would behoove us to look at projects that haven't been
29 funded and that are on our ICIPs because that was one of the conditions
30 that the RLC was looking for, because basically what we're trying to do is
31 get funding so if something's already been funded. So the University
32 pedestrian crossing has already been funded? Is there anything else on
33 the list that's already been funded?
34
35 Murphy: I did some research and I do believe that there is some partial funding on
36 the El Paseo and Idaho intersection improvements. I looked through the
37 City's CIP or their project list I think. But I don't think it's fully funded.
38
39 Flores: Okay. So let's just go ahead and leave that on because we're not sure
40 about it so I don't think any harm can be done to.
41
42 Barraza: Madam.
43
44 Flores: Does anybody have a comment? Mayor Barraza.
45

1 Barraza: I just want clarification. So we know that the University pedestrian
2 crossing has been funded entirely with TIP money?
3

4 Wray: There's some work on Idaho and El Paseo that has already been done but
5 what our understanding, oh, University. That's a City, that's not an MPO.
6 That's something that the City, you'd have to ask City staff about that. We
7 were only familiar with it anecdotally if University is the one being
8 discussed right now.
9

10 Barraza: Madam Chair. Just because it says it was funded with TIP money? Am I
11 understanding this correctly?
12

13 Wray: Or, yes, that's actually supposed to be "or on TIP." The slash represents
14 an or, not ...
15

16 Flores: Okay. Thank you for that clarification. So we'll put it back up, the
17 University pedestrian crossing improvement okay. Because that just
18 means it's on the TIP okay. Anyone else before we get started?
19 Councillor Pedroza.
20

21 Pedroza: I have a question about, you just said after the Engler interchange you
22 said something about intersections and I find that a little bit vague.
23

24 Murphy: That's how it was represented to us to bring forward, it was a desire and I
25 think this through public comment and through review through the BPAC
26 was to encourage each of the entities to update their design standards to
27 make intersection design more bicycle/pedestrian friendly and follow the
28 National Association of City Transportation Officials' publications that
29 they've done as opposed to the Association of State Highway
30 Transportation Officials' guidelines. So it's kind of a movement in
31 transportation circles to have street design more representative or fit
32 better into urban areas and not automatically revert to the rural highway
33 design that AASHTO or is traditionally put out as best practice.
34

35 Pedroza: And somebody has sponsored that as one of the projects.
36

37 Murphy: Yes. We had, and our Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee I
38 believe is strongly behind that one.
39

40 Pedroza: Okay. Thank you very much.
41

42 Flores: All right. So are we ready to vote? Let's go ahead. Okay.
43

44 Murphy: All right. I'll restart and see. Connection to Bosque Park.
45

46 HAND RAISING VOTES TAKEN - Trustee Flores, Mayor Barraza.
47

1
2 Murphy: US-70/North Main bridge widening.
3
4 HAND RAISING VOTES TAKEN - Commissioner Vasquez, Mayor Barraza, Councillor
5 Eakman, Councillor Sorg.
6
7 Murphy: Engler interchange.
8
9 HAND RAISING VOTES TAKEN - Councillor Sorg.
10
11 Murphy: El Paseo and Idaho.
12
13 HAND RAISING VOTES TAKEN - Trustee Flores, Commissioner Vasquez, Councillor
14 Eakman, Councillor Pedroza, Councillor Sorg.
15
16 Murphy: I caught five of you. If a sixth person put up I didn't see it. The
17 intersections.
18
19 HAND RAISING VOTES TAKEN - Councillor Eakman, Councillor Pedroza.
20
21 Murphy: The sidewalk assessment.
22
23 HAND RAISING VOTES TAKEN - Trustee Flores, Commissioner Vasquez, Mayor
24 Barraza, Councillor Pedroza.
25
26 Murphy: And the University pedestrian crossing improvements.
27
28 HAND RAISING VOTES TAKEN - NO HANDS.
29
30 Murphy: So the top three would be: Number one with five votes, El Paseo and
31 Idaho; tied for second US-70/North Main bridge widening and Mesilla
32 sidewalk assessments each with four votes; and then the next place is two
33 of them are tied with two votes.
34
35 Flores: But we have three so ...
36
37 Murphy: We have three distincts.
38
39 Flores: All right. Thank you very much. And so are we ready to move on to the
40 next one ...
41
42 Murphy: Think that ...
43
44 Flores: Or do we need to vote again ...
45
46 Murphy: Yeah, I think we have ...

1
2 Flores: To solidify that?
3
4 Murphy: Yes.
5
6 Flores: Okay. So take a vote then.
7
8 Murphy: Okay. This is a vote on the motion to approve the resolution with the
9 Exhibit A as just decided. Mayor Barraza.
10
11 Barraza: Yes.
12
13 Murphy: Councillor Pedroza.
14
15 Pedroza: Yes.
16
17 Murphy: Mr. Doolittle.
18
19 Doolittle: For the same reasons that I mentioned earlier I am going to abstain.
20
21 Murphy: Councillor Sorg.
22
23 Sorg: Yes.
24
25 Murphy: Councillor Eakman.
26
27 Eakman: Yes.
28
29 Murphy: Commissioner Vasquez.
30
31 Vasquez: Yes.
32
33 Murphy: And Chair Flores.
34
35 Flores: Yes.
36
37 MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY.
38
39 **7.3 Resolution 17-02: A Resolution Specifying the boundary between**
40 **the MVMPO and the El Paso MPO and amending the Memorandum of**
41 **Understanding between the MPOs.**
42
43 Flores: Okay. So, I wish I weren't blind. We're moving on to 7.4: Appointment to
44 the Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities Advisory Committee.
45
46 Barraza: So we have Resolution 17-02.

1
2 Murphy: We have 7.3.
3
4 Flores: Oh 7.3, Okay I missed 7.3, sorry. Resolution 17-02: A resolution
5 specifying the boundary between the Mesilla Valley MPO and the El Paso
6 MPO and amending the Memorandum of Understanding between the
7 MPOs.
8
9 Pedroza: Move to approve.
10
11 Eakman: Second.
12
13 Flores: Okay. And Councillor Pedroza was the first one to move for that one, so.
14 Do I have any discussion? Seeing none, we'll just take a vote.
15
16 Murphy: Would you like a discussion or presentation on it or ...
17
18 Flores: Oh, I guess we should. We have a new Member who hasn't seen the
19 packet. I'm sorry.
20
21 Murphy: Okay.
22
23 Flores: Okay.
24
25 Murphy: Okay. Madam Chair, Members of the Board. As you're aware we have a
26 Memorandum of Understanding with the El Paso MPO which is our
27 neighboring MPO and we share a boundary with them. Part of their
28 planning area is the unincorporated area of Berino which to the Census
29 Department is officially in the El Paso Urbanized Area. However, through
30 historical precedent and ease of public involvement the Mesilla Valley
31 MPO has always done the planning within those boundaries for that area.
32 So as such we had developed a boundary line between us and the El
33 Paso MPO. The Federal Highway Administration notified New Mexico
34 Department of Transportation that they want to have that boundary firmly
35 set. In the past that boundary was delineated by a geographical
36 information systems or GIS shape file, it was generally agreed upon that it
37 was south of the community and that would be where it was and
38 everybody was agreeable to that. But the Federal Highway Administration
39 wants that delineated in something specific. So we went out, we talked
40 with the City Surveyor to help us out, and we established the latitude and
41 longitude of that boundary and we did adjust it slightly, in fact 147 feet
42 south so that that lines up with the U.S. Geological Society monument
43 that's out there physically. So with adopting this resolution we're going to
44 identify the specific lat and long or the right-of-way of New Mexico 28 so
45 that when we communicate it to Federal Highways it's a distinct boundary

1 and that's essentially what this resolution accomplishes. And I'll stand for
2 any questions.
3

4 Flores: I'm just, I was kind of confused because I saw four entities, like four
5 directions and then, but it looks like there ought to be five because of the
6 way the map looks on page 42, so if everybody looks at the map it seems
7 like there ought to be directions going, because you have that little part
8 that sticks out, it's not a perfect square so. But I'm map-challenged so if
9 you tell me that that basically completes it then that's fine with me but.
10

11 Wray: This line right here ...
12

13 Flores: Well that's what I'm asking you is I just kind of looked at what you had
14 written there and then I tried to line it up.
15

16 Murphy: You want to let her, okay.
17

18 Wray: Madam Chair. The reason why the line that Madam Chair is referring to, I
19 don't know if everyone can see but it's the line that I'm pointing to right
20 here, this line that's proceeding along west-northwest, the diagonal line.
21 The reason why that line is not called out in the meets and bounds is that
22 line does not abut the El Paso MPO. The El Paso MPO stops, actually
23 they're doing some tinkering as well so I really shouldn't say, but they do
24 not proceed any further north than this 32 degrees 0 minutes and 7
25 seconds north line. So that other line, the reason why we called out the
26 106 degrees line is that's the point where at the time when we did this El
27 Paso MPO's jurisdiction stopped. So we were trying to establish just a
28 point of disconnection there from El Paso MPO. That's the reason why
29 the other lines proceeding to the west-northwest are not called out.
30

31 Flores: Okay. That makes sense to me. Thank you very much. And then my
32 other comments were on page 38, these things go, basically you state the
33 reasons for why you're going to do something and then you say, "Now
34 therefore." That second part, "Know all me by these presents," obviously
35 is a typo and I really would like to just scratch it and put, "Know therefore
36 that the El Paso MPO and the Mesilla Valley agree as follows." Just cut
37 that little part out because it doesn't make sense and obviously it must be
38 a typo for anything. And then the third thing is on page 39, the second to
39 the last sentence, "It is agreed that these activities include but not are not
40 limited to," I think you just mean to say, "but are not limited to." And that's
41 just a friendly amendment that I would like to just, I don't know if I need to
42 make an amendment to this because it's just a friendly, obviously a
43 grammatical error. So I don't think that, I just want to point it out.
44

45 Murphy: Madam Chair. Which line was that on 39?
46

1 Flores: It's the second to the last line, well the last sentence but if you go up one,
2 "It is agreed," on page 39.
3
4 Murphy: Okay.
5
6 Flores: "It is agreed that these activities include but," it says "not are not" but I
7 think you mean to say "but are not limited to," so you just need to cut out
8 that first "not" and that's it. And that's the only issues I had with that
9 besides being concerned about the boundary.
10
11 Murphy: I think we can make those changes administratively. I will have to double-
12 check on the "Now for, therefore know all me by these presents." That ...
13
14 Flores: That's not a form I'm familiar with.
15
16 Murphy: This I believe was drafted by the El Paso MPO attorney so I will check and
17 make sure that that's not something they definitely absolutely need to
18 have on the Texas side so ...
19
20 Flores: I'm pretty sure they meant to say, "Know all by these presents," I think. Is
21 that right, Olga does that sound right to you, that kind of language? But I
22 really think it could be just completely cut out. It's just ...
23
24 Murphy: I think we can do that. We can check with them and do that
25 administratively.
26
27 Flores: Okay. Thank you so much. And did anybody else have any issues with
28 this?
29
30 Sorg: Yes Madam Chair.
31
32 Flores: Councillor Sorg.
33
34 Sorg: Thank you Madam Chair. The map, I was wondering about the lines that
35 are on there you say have been used for the borders of the two MPOs up
36 till now, but we're just dividing them for sure? I'm just wondering how this
37 changes any borders.
38
39 Murphy: These lines are very close to what we've always used as the borders but I
40 did say we did end up moving the one line 147 feet so that it lines up with
41 the U.S. Government monument. But it doesn't affect any transportation
42 right-of-ways so that all the ones that we've planned for are still in our
43 area, all the ones they've planned for are still in theirs.
44
45 Sorg: Okay. Then I was wondering, the white areas on the map, what do they
46 represent?

1
2 Murphy: Those are unincorporated communities.
3
4 Sorg: Unincorporated, okay.
5
6 Murphy: Yes.
7
8 Sorg: Can you name one or two of them just so I can get my bearings straight?
9
10 Murphy: Just trying to figure, we have the, starting on the left bottom corner that's,
11 believe it's Anthony and then moving directly over that's kind of under the
12 words "East of right-of-way to New Mexico 28" is Chamberino. And then
13 further north we have San Miguel, La Mesa, Mesquite ...
14
15 Sorg: Okay, thank you.
16
17 Murphy: And Vado.
18
19 Sorg: Thank you Madam Chair. That's fine with me.
20
21 Flores: Isn't Anthony incorporated now? I believe they ...
22
23 Murphy: Yes. You're correct. So I guess those are census designated places and
24 they're some kind of community.
25
26 Flores: All right. Thank you. Anyone else? Okay. Then are we ready to vote?
27 Okay.
28
29 Murphy: Mayor Barraza.
30
31 Barraza: Yes.
32
33 Murphy: Councillor Pedroza.
34
35 Pedroza: Yes.
36
37 Murphy: Mr. Doolittle.
38
39 Doolittle: Yes.
40
41 Murphy: Councillor Sorg.
42
43 Sorg: Yes.
44
45 Murphy: Councillor Eakman.
46

1 Eakman: Yes.
2
3 Murphy: Commissioner Vasquez.
4
5 Vasquez: Yes.
6
7 Murphy: Madam Chair.
8
9 Flores: Yes. Sorry. Okay.
10
11 MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY.
12
13 **7.4 Appointment to the Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities Advisory**
14 **Committee.**
15
16 Flores: So we'll move on to 7.4: Appointment to the Bicycle and Pedestrian
17 Facilities Advisory Committee. Do you want to say anything? Okay. Mr.
18 Wray's going to say something.
19
20 Wray: Thank you Madam Chair.
21
22 Sorg: Madam Chair. I'd like to move to approve this resolution.
23
24 Pedroza: Second.
25
26 Flores: Okay. So that was Councillor Sorg moving and Pedroza seconded.
27
28 Wray: Thank you Madam Chair. Late last year Mr. Gabriel Rochelle who had
29 been on the BPAC for approximately a year tendered his resignation of his
30 seat. We did a call for candidates over November and December late last
31 year and we have four candidates that applied. Their letters of intent have
32 been included in your packet for your review, but we also invited all four of
33 the candidates to attend today's meeting to speak on behalf of the
34 candidacy, and I believe we have three of them here with us this
35 afternoon. I don't know if any one of them has a particular order that they
36 would like to come up and speak first but ...
37
38 Flores: Why don't we go by order of the packet then, or who is, because we got ...
39
40 Wray: Who was first in the packet? I don't have that.
41
42 Flores: The first is one from University, Frank, yeah.
43
44 Wray: Oh, we have Frank Sholedice as the first. I don't believe he is here with
45 us today. So Len Paulozzi is the next that we have in order.
46

1 Flores: Okay.
2
3 Paulozzi: Afternoon everyone. I'm Len Paulozzi. I'm a new resident of Las Cruces.
4 I've lived here for a year. I recently retired. I worked for the government
5 as a medical epidemiologist for the Centers for Disease Control and
6 Prevention. The last 15 years I've worked on injury prevention at the
7 CDC's Injury Center in Atlanta and I spent a couple of those years, three
8 or four, working on motor vehicle crashes and with a particular focus on
9 pedestrian, ATV, and motorcycle crashes. I wanted to see if there's
10 anything I could do to contribute to my community. This seemed like an
11 opportunity when I saw it in the paper. So I'd be interested in using
12 information to identify the biggest risks in the community, try and identify
13 effective public health interventions and infrastructure changes to address
14 them, and in general encouraging people to get out and get more exercise
15 to improve their health. I'm retired and I'd like to contribute time. That's
16 my statement. Any questions?
17
18 Eakman: Yes if I might, Madam Chair.
19
20 Flores: Councillor Eakman. Yeah.
21
22 Eakman: May I ask where you live?
23
24 Paulozzi: I live in the East Mesa, east of Sonoma Ranch.
25
26 Eakman: Thank you.
27
28 Flores: And ...
29
30 Sorg: Madam Chair.
31
32 Flores: Councillor Sorg.
33
34 Sorg: Well Sonoma Ranch is a long street and it's divided by Highway 70. So
35 which side of Highway 70 do you live on?
36
37 Paulozzi: Thank you. South side. Near the intersection with Lohman.
38
39 Sorg: Okay. Thank you very much.
40
41 Paulozzi: Thank you.
42
43 Flores: Do you? Okay. And I'll just take this opportunity to thank you for applying
44 for the position and to thank everyone here for applying for the position
45 because it is important and there are times when this is a lucky, lucky for
46 us that we had four people basically asking to be put on this Board, but a

1 lot of times we have a hard time getting applicants. So I just want to make
2 that statement. Thank you for applying. And Mr. Doolittle.
3
4 Doolittle: Thank you Madam Chair. I also appreciate you all applying for this
5 position. I just have one question. Looking through all of the letters, all of
6 you are interested in bicycling but there wasn't a whole lot of mention tied
7 to walking, and this is a pedestrian and bicycle committee. How much
8 interest do you have, whether it be recreational or commuting, do you
9 have walking?
10
11 Paulozzi: I'm actually more interested in the pedestrian side. I think that it was
12 framed as bicycling perhaps in the newspaper ad, but I understand it's a
13 Committee for both. Both are vulnerable road users and as a matter of
14 fact you have a lot more deaths from pedestrian deaths here in Las
15 Cruces than you do from bicyclist crashes. So personally I do a lot more
16 walking than bicycling but I'm interested in both.
17
18 Doolittle: And thank you for that. I do understand that this was advertised as a
19 bicycle, but because we incorporate the pedestrian and alternative modes
20 of transportation I just wanted to pick your brain a little bit. So thank you.
21
22 Paulozzi: Sure.
23
24 Flores: Actually I kind of want to make sure that that's the case because it was my
25 understanding when I was reading the packet that this was for a bicycle
26 position. So is that correct or ...
27
28 Wray: Yes Madam.
29
30 Flores: Because I know there's three people that are supposed to ... go ahead.
31
32 Wray: Yes Madam Chair. This is a Bicycle Community position but obviously it's
33 preferred if everyone has the broader perspective, but this is a Bicycle
34 Community position as opposed to a Pedestrian Community position that's
35 being filled.
36
37 Flores: Okay. Thank you for that clarification. Anyone else? Okay. Thank you
38 very much.
39
40 Wray: Thank you Madam Chair. The next person I'm going to invite up to speak
41 is Mr. Jess M. Waller.
42
43 Waller: Good afternoon. I've lived in Las Cruces since 1995. I'm an avid cyclist. I
44 cycle two or more times per week. I've been doing that since 2006,
45 translates to about 3,000 miles per year. I'm well aware of the bicycle
46 clubs in the area. We have ZiaVelo, we have El Paso Bicycle Club, we

1 have some other groups down in El Paso that we could interface with.
2 Wall also am a hiker and very interested in the, like this Rio Grande
3 pathway between Albuquerque and Sunland Park sounds kind of neat and
4 doing a loop and connecting up La Llorona, that trail. I mean that's a nice
5 loop. I used to take my kids on that when they were growing up and they
6 were a lot younger. They're in college now. I work at NASA as a
7 contractor. I have a doctorate in polymer science and also teach part-time
8 at NMSU, actually teaching thermodynamics, Mechanical Engineering
9 Department at NMSU this fall, starting January 19th. So I think this is a
10 really important position. It behooves us to make, I loved the comments
11 about Sedona and using this as an attractor for tourism and we have this
12 new National Monument, Organ Mountains National Monument, a couple
13 parcels out there that you could make maybe mountain bike trails out
14 there. But we have almost like a blank slate here we could do a lot with,
15 and I love the ideas about making this safer, redesigning the intersections,
16 making them more bike-visible for people in like wheelchairs, pedestrians,
17 just make it safer for the cyclists and the pedestrians. So that's my
18 statement. Are there any questions?
19

20 Flores: Mr. Doolittle.

21
22 Doolittle: Thank you Mr. Waller. I do have one question. You mentioned you work
23 at NASA and we have several folks who have commuted from the
24 community of Las Cruces even to NASA and over the hills to White
25 Sands. Are you a recreational biker? Do you commute to White Sands?
26

27 Waller: I wish they could. The access road is closed to cyclists at this point but
28 what cyclists do is they use the frontage road on 70 and then they go on
29 Baylor Canyon and there's like a 2.1, 2.2 mile stretch that's currently
30 unpaved connecting Baylor Canyon with University, Dripping Springs back
31 down to, I mean that's a great, people love that loop and they still do it
32 even though you have that section of, it's kind of an improved surface but
33 it's not a paved surface. But it's such a wonderful loop that the local road
34 cyclists love it. Plus you have that brand-new road going up to Dripping
35 Springs, it's just like smooth as butter that people love.
36

37 Doolittle: Very good. Thank you.

38
39 Waller: Sure.

40
41 Flores: Anyone else? Okay. Thank you very much.

42
43 Waller: Thank you.

44
45 Wray: Madam Chair. The last person I'm going to invite up to speak is Mr. John
46 Gagne.

1
2 Gagne: Hi. Good afternoon. Appreciate the opportunity to be here. My name is
3 John Gagne, relatively new to Las Cruces. I've been here for about a year
4 now. I'm an avid bicyclist. I recently relocated from Chicago where I
5 actually didn't even own a vehicle and relied on my bicycle as my mode of
6 transportation. In 2007 I was lucky enough to ride my bicycle across the
7 country. In doing so I gained a lot of perspective on how a lot of different
8 states and cities incorporate their roads and motorways to accommodate
9 cyclists and pedestrians. In Chicago we are lucky enough to have some
10 fantastic bicycle lanes. I do feel like in the short period of time I have been
11 here in Las Cruces I can see that path and that momentum moving in that
12 direction. I feel like just being a part of that Committee and the Bicycle
13 Community I would be able to help advocate to continue that momentum.
14 You guys, just being here today has given me some perspective on kind of
15 the insight of the Committee's points of view of what's going on in the local
16 community which is helpful in a lot of different senses but you know I think
17 there are some great ideas spoke about that there seems to be a lot of
18 opportunity in different areas such as the intersections. I recently started
19 commuting to work via bicycle as well and I've never owned a light on my
20 bike but I actually just bought a light on my bike because several of the
21 intersections I travel through with the stop signs being so far away from
22 the various different road paths that I get concerned crossing the
23 sidewalks and crossing the intersections. So just speaking in that term I
24 feel like there's a lot of opportunity for growth and improvement in different
25 areas as well. So that's kind of my spiel as well. I appreciate the
26 opportunity. I'd love to answer any questions if anybody has any.
27
28 Sorg: Madam Chair.
29
30 Flores: Councillor Sorg.
31
32 Sorg: Thank you Madam Chair. First of all I'd like to thank John and Len and
33 Jess, and who couldn't be here, Frank, for applying for this position.
34 We're blessed to have so many good, quality, experienced, talented
35 people to serve on this Committee. I wish you could all be on the
36 Committee. Can we make an exception Mr. Murphy? But John, I wanted
37 to ask you, you have in your letter that you work for Virgin Galactic and ...
38
39 Gagne: Correct, yeah.
40
41 Sorg: And it says Category Manager. Could you just briefly say what that is?
42
43 Gagne: Yeah. Love to. So I'm in procurement so it's just a fancy way to say I buy
44 really fun things for our customers and the space flight experience, like
45 they're going to have all of the products and equipment that they're going
46 to interact with gets sourced through my group. So all of the food,

1 transportation, lodging, their clothing that they're going to wear while
2 they're here in Las Cruces, all the hospitality items get sourced and
3 procured through my group.
4
5 Sorg: Okay. Very good. Thank you and welcome to Las Cruces.
6
7 Gagne: Thank you. Appreciate it.
8
9 Sorg: Wish you have great success. Thank you Madam Chair.
10
11 Flores: Was there anyone else? Councillor Eakman.
12
13 Eakman: Yes. Thank you so much and thank you Mr. Gagne for your application. I
14 want to thank all three applicants that are here today for extending
15 themselves for this and the four applicants of course. Where precisely do
16 you live Mr. Gagne?
17
18 Gagne: I live Sonoma Ranch, south of 70. Yeah, is that good enough?
19
20 Eakman: Okay. Very good. And I haven't had the chance to ask the others, are
21 you available to make every meeting of the Committees when they meet?
22
23 Gagne: As of right now I do have availability to meet each meeting.
24
25 Eakman: Okay. Thank you.
26
27 Flores: Do we want to give the other two candidates an opportunity to answer that
28 question?
29
30 Waller: NOT AT THE MICROPHONE.
31
32 Flores: Could you come to the mic though to, so we can get it on ...
33
34 Waller: Yes. I see one conflict, the second Wednesday, I do have a conflict in
35 February where we have a Japanese Space Agency organization coming
36 to White Sands and UTEP and I'll be attending the delegation down at
37 UTEP.
38
39 Flores: But that's just one meeting, for clarification.
40
41 Waller: Just one. Just one.
42
43 Paulozzi: I'm retired. I don't have a schedule - NOT AT THE MICROPHONE.
44
45 Flores: Okay. Anyone else have any issues? And then I just want to apologize to
46 all of the applicants that came here. I think in the future when we ask

1 people to come, that we ought to move them up on the agenda so they
2 don't have to suffer through our meeting, and so I really apologize for that
3 and I apologize for us being late in starting. This is just a fluke because
4 we've had some discontinuity. So I apologize.
5
6 Wray: Madam Chair, Members of the Committee. You have been passed out a
7 secret ballot. If you will please, at this time if the Committee is ready,
8 unless they'll give a final opportunity just in case there's any questions but
9 please make your mark as to who your preferred candidate would be and
10 staff will collect and tabulate those immediately.
11
12 Flores: Okay. I just have one, it looks like two more comments then, one from
13 Councillor Eakman and then Mr. Doolittle did you also want to make one
14 last comment beforehand? Okay. Mr. Doolittle has a question so let's let
15 him ask that first and then we'll let Mr. Eakman have his comment. Go
16 ahead.
17
18 Eakman: I had a question also.
19
20 Flores: Oh okay. Go ahead with your question first then since you're first up.
21
22 Eakman: My question is, is a secret ballot in conformance with the Open Meetings
23 Act?
24
25 Flores: That's a good question. Ms. Pedroza seems to believe that it is not.
26
27 Pedroza: The reason if I may. Mayor Miyagishima has told us repeatedly that at
28 one meeting he thought it would be fastest to just say, "Go ahead and do
29 a secret ballot." And he was told that it's not in conformity with the Open
30 Meetings Act and so ever since then he never went again for secret
31 ballots.
32
33 Flores: Okay.
34
35 Barraza: Madam Chair. Can I just ask if you put your name on the ballot is that
36 considered a secret ballot? If we put our name on the ballot is that
37 considered secret ballot?
38
39 Eakman: Well obviously if we put our name on the ballot it would no longer be
40 secret.
41
42 Barraza: Right. So we can do that? Okay.
43
44 Flores: Okay. So, and we will turn them in to you and you will verify that we are
45 giving it to you. Does that, so that way ...
46

1 Wray: Sure. I'll watch Tom if he does it.
2
3 Flores: Just for quality assurance. Okay. And Mr. Doolittle had a question.
4
5 Doolittle: I just had one question for clarification. We are only voting for one, not
6 rating one through four?
7
8 Wray: We are only voting for one.
9
10 Doolittle: Thank you.
11
12 Flores: All right. This is difficult.
13
14 Barraza: Madam Chair. Just one other, I'm sorry but I have another appointment at
15 3:00 that I'm going to have to leave. So I'll have to excuse myself from the
16 meeting.
17
18 Flores: All right.
19
20 Barraza: Okay. Thank you.
21
22 Flores: Councillor Pedroza did you have a ...
23
24 Pedroza: Yes. I also have a meeting at 3:00 so if you will excuse me I'm going to
25 have to leave.
26
27 VOTING FOR LEN PAULOZZI - Trustee Flores, Commissioner Vasquez, Mr. Doolittle,
28 Councillor Eakman, Councillor Sorg.
29 VOTING FOR JOHN GAGNE - Mayor Barraza, Councillor Pedroza.
30 VOTING FOR JESS WALLER - None
31 VOTING FOR FRANK SHOLEDICE - None
32
33 Wray: We're ready to make the announcement if everyone, I know you're just all
34 waiting with bated breath but the Committee has selected Mr. Len
35 Paulozzi as the representative. So congratulations to him and thank you
36 very much to the other applicants.
37
38 Flores: And I encourage the other applicants should we have another position that
39 you reapply because we've had some really good applications and I hope
40 this doesn't discourage you and I want to thank you for coming and putting
41 yourself out there. Okay thank you.
42
43 Vasquez: Madam Chair. May I make a comment?
44
45 Flores: Yes.
46

1 Vasquez: I just appreciate all of you applying. You know it's really nice to see the
2 young man that applied, only because it seems that in policy or anything
3 to do with any kind of government entity we see middle-aged to elderly
4 involved, but when you see a young man or young person wanting to be
5 involved I just ask that you continue to get involved in whatever, if it's not
6 with the bicycle maybe something else. I really appreciate you coming
7 out.

8
9 Flores: I'll second that. Thank you. Yeah that's a good comment.

10
11 **8. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

12
13 **8.1 NMDOT update**

14
15 Wray: Madam Chair. The next item that we have on the agenda is the NMDOT
16 update.

17
18 Flores: Mr. Doolittle.

19
20 Doolittle: Thank you Madam Chair. I think the other two left because it was my
21 update so I'm going to take all their money and give it to the County. I
22 really don't have very much this month. We continue to be really in our
23 winter season so we don't have a whole lot of construction ongoing right
24 now. I will have a very detailed update next month as we'll start to have
25 some pre-cons for instance for the US-70 mill and inlay project over the
26 Organ Pass. Some designs are closing out on the New Mexico 136
27 corridor which is in the El Paso MPO but certainly impacts this area. The
28 biggest update that I wanted to give you all is it seems like every year
29 towards the end of the fiscal year I mention that the District received some
30 reallocation funding. We were lucky enough early on in this fiscal year, we
31 just found out a few weeks ago that we're going to receive \$11 million of
32 extra money for some mill and inlay work, some pavement rehab north of
33 Hatch. Again, I know it's really outside of this MPO area but it really
34 affects this community. So we're going to spend \$11 million on top of our
35 STIP. It's not in target so, I'm sorry, I-25, so basically just north of Hatch.
36 I can't remember the exact mileposts but it's that, honestly it's that real bad
37 section north of Hatch. I think that's one of the last sections of I-25 that we
38 haven't touched in a while. But we continue to get that, you know all the
39 work that we did here on I-10 that was some reallocation money. We just
40 continue to have several projects on the shelf that because other districts
41 or federal funding releasing money or cost savings on other projects is
42 coming to our district, and just to give you all an idea, we typically in our
43 district spend about \$30 million, between now and December of next year
44 we'll be letting close to \$70 million worth of work. A big chunk of that of
45 course is the New Mexico 136/Artcraft corridor there at Sunland Park and
46 Santa Teresa. Actually with this \$11 million that increases to about \$80

1 million. So you can see that our district is just reaping the benefits of
2 others either not spending their money or cost savings on other projects,
3 but very exciting for us. Again next month I'll provide a much more
4 detailed update. Spitz/Three Crosses intersection I know is coming up.
5 We actually have preliminary award that went out just last week with
6 ~~notice to proceed dates so as soon as I get schedules from contractors I'll~~
7 start letting you all know what we're going to be doing at that intersection
8 and when. But I will have a much more detailed, thorough report next
9 month.

10
11 Flores: Thank you. Okay.

12
13 **9. COMMITTEE AND STAFF COMMENTS**

14
15 Flores: Oh there it is. I thought there was going to be comments from staff.
16 Okay. Comments from staff.

17
18 Wray: Thank you Madam Chair. Staff will announce at this meeting that we are
19 going to do an extended TIP call for projects through February 24th. I'll be
20 sending out another letter to all the jurisdictions and putting that in the
21 paper, but February 24th will be the final absolute deadline on that. Is
22 there anything else that we have that's come up? That's our only
23 announcement.

24
25 Flores: Okay. Any Committee Members have any comments they want to make?
26 Then I would just welcome our new Member and in addition to that I just
27 kind of want to get on my soapbox a little bit. I'm personally just very
28 upset with these payday lenders and I'm very sorry that the attempt to limit
29 them to making 33% interest on these loans was not successful in the
30 past, and I would just encourage you to talk to your Legislators and to do
31 that. I have an article here that I read in the Arizona newspaper and I'm
32 just going to read one little section, let me try and find it. "A new Utah
33 Department of Financial Institutions report says the average interest rate
34 on payday loans dropped from 842% to 459%." And I know that our state
35 is very similar to that and it just sickens me. There are two things we
36 cannot afford to waste in this state: Water and money. We have a
37 plethora of poor people here and that's who they're targeting, and it just
38 sickens me. And I went to one of these meetings for the Compromise Bill
39 from the industry and basically it was just an attempt to keep communities
40 from being able to regulate. It was not a compromise and luckily that
41 failed but nothing else has happened, and in the meantime money is just
42 getting sucked from our state. And it's an opportunity for us to keep
43 money here where we can really use it. So I just encourage all Members.
44 Councillor Sorg, please go ahead.
45

1 Sorg: I just would like to speak to support that completely. The City Council has
2 passed a resolution, how would I say it, against payday lenders, against
3 the predatory lending is like I want to say it. And in my talks with our local
4 Legislators they're all on board to end this. And we just have to fight the
5 lobbyists is all.
6

7 Flores: And I just want to caution you because when I went to the meeting and I
8 went to support the industry's Compromise Bill. Basically one of the things
9 on their Compromise Bill was to keep communities and municipalities from
10 being able to regulate it, because I believe El Paso has said, "No," and put
11 limits on them, so what they do is try and drive people, they keep the
12 storefront and try and drive them out to the County where they won't be
13 accountable. And you know they're already trying to circumvent any kind
14 of regulation and you know we need to get ahead of this. New York
15 passed a law, they're telling our legislators, "We'll go out of business. We
16 provide a great service." And New York limited them to 25% and nobody
17 went out of business. They're making plenty of money and when they got
18 rid of the last cap that the state had on it, somebody said, "What's to
19 prevent you guys from charging 17%?" and the industry answered, "That
20 would never happen. The market will take care of that." Well the market
21 has not taken care of that. The Supreme Court had two cases that came
22 down, and I could be wrong because this has been a while that I've read
23 them, but I think there were two Hispanics that were the petitioners, I think
24 they borrowed \$100, maybe it was \$200. They had paid something like
25 \$900 in interest and the Court finally said, "That shocks our conscience
26 and you can't do that." But really I think we could do better than allowing
27 900% to be the bar. So I really encourage all of you to please write your
28 Legislators, write your Congressmen and tell them that you're watching to
29 see if they're accepting money for their campaigns from these industries
30 and you're watching to see what they do about it. And please urge them
31 to do something. Thank you. I'll get off my soapbox. Commissioner
32 Vasquez.
33

34 Vasquez: Madam Chair. I just want to say I also am in agreement with you and
35 Councillor Sorg that the interest rate is extremely high and we need to be
36 careful on predatory lending. However I would also add that when we talk
37 to our legislators I like to take a two-prong approach. You know the
38 lobbying is very strong in our state as well as other states and it seems
39 like too many times our elected officials say one thing and do another.
40 And I don't want to point fingers. I don't want to say why whether it's
41 campaign contributions or whatever may be the case. One of the things
42 that I am passionate about is teaching our youth. You know right now the
43 big push is early childhood development, and it should be. But with that
44 being said I would like everyone to consider, start lobbying their State
45 Legislators for financial literacy. You know we teach our children
46 everything from first grade to 12th grade to include who discovered the

1 Cities of Gold. And I've always said, "I don't know how relevant knowing
2 who discovered the Cities of Gold is in your everyday life." Not that it's not
3 important, history is important. But I would say that financial literacy is
4 definitely important. And you know if you go to the Jewish communities in
5 New York, they start teaching financial literacy as early as fourth grade, if
6 not earlier. And they do it in the, everything's based on money you know
7 and again that's what it's all about. So they teach math in the form of
8 money to allow the children to pick it up easier, and we kind of see a little
9 bit of that bleeding over into some of the classes in our elementary
10 schools. But I think we need to support the bill that, I believe it's
11 Representative McDonald out of Bernalillo, it's been memorialized, the
12 Financial Literacy Bill. And we're always going to get pushback because
13 right now our educators are burdened enough with the Common Core
14 testing and stuff. But I do believe if we reach out to our educators and
15 say, "Look if you educate the public next time they go get a loan and if the
16 first thing they're taught to do is look at that interest rate. What is the
17 actual dollar amount you're going to pay back over the time frame of this
18 loan?" So a two-prong approach. I just want to leave my thoughts on
19 that. Thank you.

20
21 Flores: Thank you for that. I know I've, well I'll talk to you afterwards so, but thank
22 you for that. Anyone else? Okay. Seeing none I think I'll, make sure this
23 is.
24

25 **10. PUBLIC COMMENT**
26

27 Flores: Oh, public comment again. Does anybody want to make a comment from
28 the public? Seeing none.
29

30 **11. ADJOURNMENT (2:57 PM)**
31

32 Flores: Then we'll move to adjournment. Thank you very much and the next
33 meeting is going to be February 8th? Eighth. Okay. Thank you.
34
35

36
37 

38
39 Chairperson