The following is the Agenda for a meeting of the Policy Committee of the Mesilla Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization (MVMPO) to be held April 12, 2017 at 1:00 p.m. in the Doña Ana County Commission Chambers, 845 Motel Blvd., Las Cruces, New Mexico. Meeting packets are available on the Mesilla Valley MPO website.

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1. CALL TO ORDER/ PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE ____________________________ Chair

2. CONFLICT OF INTEREST INQUIRY ____________________________________ Chair

   Does any Committee Member have any known or perceived conflict of interest with any item on the agenda? If so, that Committee member may recuse themselves from voting on a specific matter, or if they feel that they can be impartial, we will put their participation up to a vote by the rest of the Committee.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT __________________________________________________ Chair

4. CONSENT AGENDA* _________________________________________________ Chair

5. * APPROVAL OF MINUTES ____________________________________________ Chair

   5.1. *February 8, 2017________________________________________________ Chair

6. ACTION ITEMS _______________________________________________________

   6.1. Appointment to the Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities Advisory Committee _______ MPO Staff

   6.2. Appointment of MVMPO Representatives to the Regional Leadership Consortium __ MPO Staff

7. DISCUSSION ITEMS _________________________________________________

   7.1. Committee Training ______________________________________________ MPO Staff

   7.2. NMDOT update __________________________________________________ NMDOT Staff

8. COMMITTEE and STAFF COMMENTS _____________________________________ Chair

9. PUBLIC COMMENT ____________________________________________________ Chair

10. ADJOURNMENT ___________________________________________________________ Chair
MESILLA VALLEY METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
POLICY COMMITTEE

The following are minutes for the meeting of the Mesilla Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Policy Committee which was held February 8, 2017 at 1:00 p.m. in Commission Chambers at Dona Ana County Government Building, 845 Motel Blvd., Las Cruces, New Mexico.

MEMBERS PRESENT:  
Mayor Nora Barraza (Town of Mesilla) (arrived 1:23)  
Trent Doolittle (NMDOT)  
Councillor Jack Eakman (CLC)  
Trustee Linda Flores (Town of Mesilla)  
Councillor Olga Pedroza (CLC)  
Commissioner Benjamin Rawson (DAC)  
Commissioner Isabella Solis (DAC) (arrived 1:03)  
Councillor Gill Sorg (CLC)  
Commissioner John Vasquez (DAC)

MEMBERS ABSENT:  
Trustee Carlos Arzabal (Town of Mesilla)

STAFF PRESENT:  
Tom Murphy (MPO staff)  
Andrew Wray (MPO staff)  
Michael McAdams (MPO staff)  
Dominic Loya (MPO Staff)

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

1. CALL TO ORDER / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE (1:02 PM)
Flores: I'm going to call this meeting to order and we'll start with the Pledge of Allegiance.

ALL STAND FOR PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

2. CONFLICT OF INTEREST INQUIRY
Flores: And then I'm going to ask if any Member of our Board has a conflict of interest. Does any Member have any known or perceived conflict of interest with any item on the agenda? If so that Committee Member may recuse themselves from voting on a specific matter or if they feel that they can be impartial we will put their participation up to a vote by the rest of the Committee.

Pedroza: No conflict.

Flores: Okay.
Sorg: None.
Eakman: None.
Vasquez: None.
Flores: Okay. Seeing none.

3. PUBLIC COMMENT

Flores: We'll move on to public comment. Is there anyone in the public that would like to make a comment? No. Okay.

4. CONSENT AGENDA *

Flores: And then we'll move to the consent agenda. So on the consent agenda I have the approval of the minutes. Do I hear a motion?

Eakman: I would move that we approve those minutes as published.

Pedroza: Second.

Flores: Okay, so I hear a motion and a second. All in favor say "aye."

MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY.

Flores: All opposed say "nay." Okay. So that's passed.

5. * APPROVAL OF MINUTES

5.1 * January 11, 2016

- VOTED ON VIA THE CONSENT AGENDA

6. ACTION ITEMS

6.1 Resolution 17-03: A Resolution Amending the 2016-2021 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

Flores: We have, next are action items. Next I have action item 7.1, Resolution 17-03: A Resolution Amending the 2016-2021 Transportation Improvement Program, the TIP.
Wray: Thank you Madam Chair. I'd like to direct the attention of the Committee to page 42 of the packet. This is the first amendment that's being requested today. This is an NMDOT requested amendment.

Sorg: Madam Chair. Should we have a motion to approve the resolution first?

Flores: Oh, that's right, I'm sorry. Okay.

Sorg: I'll do that.

Flores: Are you making that motion?

Sorg: I'll make that motion to approve the resolution.

Flores: Okay. That was Councillor Sorg. Do I hear a second?

Pedroza: Second.

Flores: And that was seconded by Councillor Pedroza.

Wray: Thank you Madam Chair.

Flores: Actually if we could just pause I see Commissioner Solis has arrived. So we'll note that for the record. Who has the signup sheet and we'll just make sure she gets that. Okay. If somebody can give her the sign-in sheet. Okay. So welcome and have they told you where we're at on the meeting? On 7.1 we're looking at. Okay. So we got our first and a second, go ahead and continue.

Wray: Thank you Madam Chair. Again on page 42 of the packet, this is an NMDOT requested amendment, LC00160. This is actually City of Las Cruces contributing money for the utility work to be done on the Valley Drive project. The City wants to do the utilities work concurrent with the NMDOT reconstruction project and that is the purpose of that amendment. We also have, and this is the sheet that was handed out to you by Mr. Murphy just a moment ago, the very last item, LC00300. This project, NMDOT has requested that it be moved to Federal Fiscal Year 2019, as it's my understanding that they do not have the funding to pay for it in Fiscal Year 2018. And I don't know if Mr. Love wishes to elaborate any further on that or if that pretty much sums it up.

Love: That pretty much sums it up.

Wray: Okay. Those are the amendments being requested today Madam Chair.
Murphy: Andrew. Madam Chair, if I may interject. On this amendment on the sheet that was passed out, it was passed out after the packets were published. It was presented as a floor amendment to the TAC amendment, so the TAC did vote on it and recommend approval. However the BPAC did not review this amendment. But it is not, you can take that under and advisement and act on it how you see fit.

Flores: Okay. Thank you.

Wray: Madam Chair. Also you'll note that the Exhibit A listed in the packet does not have the second amendment that will be, I guess we need an amendment to the listed document and that will be included in the document that's delivered to the Chair for signature.

Flores: Okay. And in addition we'll need to strike the whereas, basically the MPO Bicycle and Pedestrian Facility Advisory voted on this and recommended on January 17th.

Wray: That is correct. We will need to do that.

Flores: Okay. That's page 43, the second whereas up needs to be scratched.

Pedroza: Excuse me. Which whereas are we excluding?

Flores: On page 43. If you go from the bottom up, the second whereas because that basically says the BPAC …

Pedroza: Oh, because they did not do that.

Flores: Reviewed and recommended. They did not do that so that needs to be scratched.

Pedroza: That leads me to another question Ms. Chair.

Flores: Yes.

Pedroza: What will the effect be of our taking some action on it if the BPAC and the pedestrian have not done that, have not taken any action?

Wray: Madam Chair, Councillor Pedroza. Ultimately the Policy Committee is the one who approves the resolutions so it wouldn't have a substantive impact on the resolution. The MPO bylaws just …

Pedroza: Our vote would not have a substantive impact.
Wray: No. No. The MPO bylaws just call for the TIP amendments to go through each one of the Advisory Committees but because this is something of an emergency amendment, it came up after the BPAC had already convened and voted and staff judged and NMDOT requested that we not hold it up until the next amendment cycle so it's being brought to you for approval today.

Pedroza: But our taking any kind of action on it will have an effect then?

Wray: It'll approve the resolution, it'll approve the amendments.

Pedroza: Regardless.

Wray: Yes.

Pedroza: Okay. Thank you.

Flores: Commissioner Rawson.

Rawson: Madam Chair, thank you. Madam Chair, it sounds like we really have two different amendments here and the first one did go through the MPO Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee and the second one did not. Is that correct?

Wray: Madam Chair, Commissioner Rawson. Yes. That is correct.

Flores: So then do we want to just kind of state that in the information?

Wray: We could …

Flores: Just say in the first part?

Wray: We could write something in the resolution. We can craft some language for that, to that effect.

Sorg: Madam Chair.

Flores: Councillor Sorg.

Sorg: I am confused. What two amendments are we talking about?

Wray: On page 42, Councillor. Actually both of the amendments are on the sheet that was handed out to you. They're the ones that are highlighted in red. LC00160 has the additional funding from the City of Las Cruces to pay for the utilities and then the last one listed on that page, LC00300 is the movement of that project from Fiscal Year '18 to Fiscal Year '19.
Sorg: Very good. And then which one got approved by the BPAC and which one did not?

Wray: LC00160 went through the BPAC and LC00300 did not.

Sorg: Thank you. That makes it very crystal clear. Thank you. In addition to that, in the packet on page 42, the description of the amendment there for LC00160 it says Valley Drive Picacho to City of Las Cruces City limits. Which City limits are we talking about here?

Wray: Madam Chair, Councillor Sorg. That is an error and I apologize. I actually had a note right here in front of me to mention that and I overlooked it. But that description is in error. The termini of the project is Picacho to Avenida de Mesilla.

Sorg: Okay. Thank you. That clears it up. That's what I was wondering about. Thank you very much Madam Chair and all.

Flores: I have a second …

Eakman: Madam Chair.

Flores: Actually I just wanted to ask, on the actual sheet that you handed out it says from Valley to Hickory, so …

Eakman: That is correct.

Wray: I do not have an explanation for that particular, this is a sheet that was developed by NMDOT but you'll notice on that, that's in the Scope column. The Project Termini is still called Picacho to Avenida de Mesilla. You'd have to ask NMDOT for a further explanation as to why Hickory is listed there.

Eakman: Madam Chair if I could. The project does extend from Picacho to Avenida de Mesilla and then on to Hickory. And this is a vital project for District 4 of the City of Las Cruces. And so I would ask my fellow Board Members to give it full consideration here because doing the utilities parallel with doing the road construction will save us a lot of problems in the decades to come.

Pedroza: Madam Chair.

Flores: Councillor Pedroza.
Flores: It seems to me as if for everybody's peace of mind and clarity it would be a good idea to amend the writings of this item to reflect exactly what we want, because otherwise it seems as if it's awfully confusing. In other words, possibly on page 42, this could be the first amendment that the Project and Termini be changed to say "Valley Drive to Avenida de Mesilla, from there to Hickory." That would be amendment number one. I move that we amend this writing in the first instance, as the first amendment to say that.

Flores: Do I hear a second?

Eakman: For the sake of clarification, I second.

Flores: Okay. Anyone else have any comments?

Wray: So just for staff's clarities when we are writing the resolution, what language exactly should appear under that whereas?

Pedroza: Madam Chair. The only thing I was addressing was the wording in the little box called Project and Termini because that's where I heard that there had been a little tiny bit of clarification needed. So instead of saying "Valley Drive to Picacho to City of Las Cruces City limits," it will say "Valley Drive, Picacho to Avenida de Mesilla and on to Hickory."

Wray: Oh, okay. I apologize I thought we were discussing the BPAC whereas.

Pedroza: No, no. We're taking them one at a time so that everything is as clear as we can make it.

Flores: Did we actually get a motion to amend that part on the BPAC, though?

Wray: There has not been a motion, no.

Flores: Okay. Can I hear a motion?

Pedroza: To what?

Flores: To basically straighten out the verbiage on the BPAC and what was considered.

Pedroza: I thought I did that.

Flores: We talked about it but I don't think there was an actual motion and a, to amend.

Wray: I apologize. I did not hear the Councillor make a motion.
Sorg: I believe Councillor Pedroza made the motion and I seconded.

Pedroza: Yes. That's my recollection as well.

Flores: But that was the motion for actually determining the termini.

Pedroza: Well whatever makes it clear.

Flores: Are you motioning for both those amendments?

Pedroza: No. I want to do them one at a time if …

Flores: Okay.

Pedroza: So if Councillor Eakman moved to make one amendment that would come prior to this one then I'll second that.

Flores: Okay.

Pedroza: If I haven't already done it.

Rawson: Madam Chair. Point of order.

Flores: Okay.

Rawson: Madam Chair. Since we do have a motion on the table with an amendment let's vote on that amendment, and just to clarify my understanding of the motion made by the Councillor, on Exhibit A which is part …

Pedroza: Right.

Rawson: Of the resolution and that is on page 46, is where the change would be, not on page 42 since page 42 is not part of the resolution and the amendment. And so just to clarify if that is my understanding Councillor, I think that's what your goal was.

Pedroza: Yes.

Rawson: And Madam Chair I'd like to suggest that we go ahead and take a vote on that motion and then come back to the BPAC question if that'd be appropriate.

Flores: That would be fine. So do we want to take a …
Wray: Yes.
Flores: Vote by person?
Wray: Mr. Love.
Love: Yes.
Wray: Councillor Sorg.
Sorg: Yes.
Wray: Councillor Pedroza.
Pedroza: Yes.
Wray: Commissioner Rawson.
Rawson: Yes.
Wray: Commissioner Solis.
Solis: Yes.
Wray: Councillor Eakman.
Eakman: Yes.
Wray: Madam Chair.
Flores: Yes.

MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY.

Flores: Okay. Sounds like that passed. Okay. And so now we haven't voted on
the amendment for the BPAC portion of the resolution. Did we decide that
there was a first and you seconded, did you second the motion on that?
Pedroza: Well I'm not sure because I wonder whether we have the authority to
amend something that the BPAC already passed.
Flores: The issue is basically clarifying what they passed and what they did not
pass.
Pedroza: And I ...
Flores: Because they did not pass both.

Pedroza: That would ...

Flores: They didn't discuss both.

Pedroza: Trouble me if I were on the BPAC.

Flores: They just discussed one and passed it.

Pedroza: If I passed something and then the Policy Committee just overrode it and said, "No, this is what we're going to do."

Flores: It's my understanding that they weren't given the opportunity to discuss one of the issues. Guess I'll let Mr. Murphy clarify that.

Murphy: Yes. Thank you Madam Chair. And staff would like to propose some language to help clear this up in that we insert specifically Project LC00160 into the whereas BPAC line and reflect that they reviewed and recommended approval of that project.

Pedroza: Even though they didn't.

Murphy: That's the project that they did review.

Pedroza: Oh, they did.

Murphy: And they did recommend approval. And I'd like to ...

Pedroza: Okay.

Murphy: To pause on my language here for both the BPAC and the TAC. They're not approving bodies to you guys.

Pedroza: Okay. Okay.

Murphy: They are recommending bodies.

Pedroza: Okay.

Murphy: And so they make recommendations to this body which has the responsibility ...

Pedroza: Final authority to ...

Murphy: And the final authority ...
Pedroza: Pass or not pass.

Murphy: And responsibility …

Pedroza: Okay.

Murphy: To pass on this. So what we’re hoping to achieve through all of this is to reflect upon that you decided, if you were to vote to approve this amendment the decision would be that it was presented to you. You were made aware that it was presented after such time that BPAC had an opportunity to review it but you feel that it should be approved anyway because of the urgency on the behalf of the DOT.

Pedroza: Right.

Murphy: That they need to have that amendment done now.

Pedroza: Madam Chair.

Flores: Councillor Pedroza.

Pedroza: Yeah. That’s very very clarifying to me. What I still need though is if you can pinpoint on there what page are we talking about amending.

Murphy: What we are talking about is amending as Commissioner Rawson pointed out page 46.

Pedroza: I thought we already did that.

Murphy: And we’re essentially taking out that Exhibit A and putting in this Exhibit A that I’d handed out, the one that we passed out that was produced by NMDOT reflect …

Pedroza: Page 48?

Murphy: This, the loose sheet that was handed out to you.

Pedroza: I believe that corresponds to what in the packet is page 48.

Wray: Madam Chair, Councillor Sorg. It does not because that sheet does not reflect the change that NMDOT is requesting in this case.

Pedroza: Are we substituting the one we received today for the one that’s in the packet?
Murphy: Madam Chair, Councillor Pedroza. We are substituting the one handed out today for page 46. Page 48 was informational from the e-mail and although LC00300 was listed on that, the subsequent change from when this packet was published to today is they're requesting that that project be moved to Fiscal Year '19. The page on page 48 does not reflect that movement of fiscal years.

Pedroza: So we are substituting this one that we received today for page 48.

Murphy: Page 48 is part of an e-mail from …

Pedroza: So we don't, we can just not consider it.

Murphy: Yeah. Page 48's not any part of the official record. It's just the packet. The official record is the resolution and the Attachment A.

Pedroza: Okay.

Murphy: And so what was handed out is intended to replace Attachment A on page 46 and now that may change the information, may make the information in the packet not correct any longer but the information in the packet was merely informational and is not part of the action requested.

Pedroza: Okay. So I think I've got it. Exhibit A as it appears in the packet is going to be removed. Okay?

Murphy: Yes.

Pedroza: The packet titled FY2017-FY2019 TIP, the one that we received, that's going to replace page 46.

Murphy: That is correct.

Pedroza: Okay. Replaces page 46. Should we do those things separately or is everybody else clear and I'm the only one kind of in a muddle here?

Flores: I thought that's what we had voted on was to basically add that (inaudible).

Murphy: We already voted on replacing Exhibit A.

Flores: Okay. That was my understanding, so okay. All right. So do we need now to vote on the whole resolution as amended?

Murphy: Yes.

Flores: Okay. Do I have any more discussion? Commissioner Rawson.
Rawson: Thank you very much, Madam Chair. The resolution references an Exhibit B as well and I didn't see that Exhibit B in the packet, at least not labeled as Exhibit B.

Wray: Madam Chair, Commissioner Rawson. That is correct. Staff neglected to include the self-certification statement that is a requirement in order for us to process it through NMDOT. We apologize. What that document just says is that this MPO has followed the relevant Federal Laws and it's handed to the Chair for her signature and then it is sent on up as part of the packet to NMDOT for the approval by the Transportation Commission and then ultimately FHWA for the Statewide STIP approval.

Rawson: And Madam Chair. If you would please send me a copy of that just so that I have it for my records. I know this is the first time I've seen that so as long as everyone else is comfortable with that being a normal thing that's done I'm happy to move forward, Madam Chair.

Flores: Okay. Thank you. So can we send him a copy via e-mail then?

Wray: I will send that to everyone, yes.

Flores: Okay. Thank you.

Sorg: Madam Chair.

Flores: And then I had … Councillor Sorg.

Sorg: I have a couple of questions on Exhibit A.

Flores: Okay.

Sorg: The control number 160, we're approving the funding of this project but are we approving any plans or design of the project?

Wray: No. Madam Chair, Councillor Sorg. No.

Sorg: Okay. That's good, clear. And the second question is on control number 300, could someone describe what that project is going to be about? It says "bridge and pavement preservation and ADA improvements from Elks to Del Rey." Well that just goes over the bridge and Del Rey doesn't cross Highway 70. It goes underneath it. I'm a little unclear just where it begins, where it ends I should say. I guess it begins at Elks Drive. But what kind of pavement preservation is that going to be, in other words?
Wray: Madam Chair, Councillor Sorg. I only know in vaguest detail about the intentions of NMDOT in this project but it's my understanding that specifically it's the bridge that is being talked about and Del Rey is only being utilized in this context as a geographic point of intersection. I don't believe any sort of work is going to be going on below or around the bridge. It's my understanding that it's just the bridge and that the pavement there, NMDOT has judged that it is in bad enough condition that it cannot wait any longer and it needs to be rehabilitated. But I'll defer to Mr. Love if he has any other comments.

Love: Madam Chair. Yes. That is correct. It's a project to do repairs on the US-70 bridge, and also to repair the pavement between the termini of Elks and Del Rey.

Sorg: So the pavement preservation will go beyond the bridge surface?

Love: That is correct.

Sorg: Okay. That's what I really wanted to know and I approve that quite a bit because I drive that often and I notice the pavement is going very bad. Thank you Madam Chair.

Flores: Thank you. Anyone else? Just want to note that Mayor Barraza has joined us, for the record. Okay. So then we need to, nobody has any more issues with this. Can we have a vote on it then?

Wray: Yes Madam Chair. Mr. Love.

Love: Yes sir. Oh, we're voting?

Wray: Voting.

Love: Yes.

Wray: Councillor Sorg.

Sorg: Yes.

Wray: Councillor Pedroza.

Pedroza: This is for all of the amendment then?

Wray: This is for the whole shebang.

Pedroza: The whole shebang. Yes.
Wray: Commissioner Rawson.

Rawson: Yes.

Wray: Commissioner Solis.

Solis: Yes.

Wray: Councillor Eakman.

Eakman: Yes.

Wray: Mayor Barraza.

Barraza: I will recuse myself because I was not part of the discussion.

Wray: Madam Chair.

Flores: Yes.

MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY.

6.2 Resolution 17-04: A Resolution Amending the FY2018 - FY2019 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)

Flores: Okay. So we'll move along to action item 7.2, Resolution 17-04: A Resolution Amending the Fiscal Year 2017 - Fiscal Year 2028 Unified Planning Work Program. Do I hear a motion?

Pedroza: Move to approve.

Eakman: Second.

Flores: So the first motion was from Councillor Pedroza and the second was from Councillor Eakman. Okay. Any discussion? Or actually, do your presentation.

Murphy: You'd like to hear about it? Madam Chair. The MPO received notification from the New Mexico Transit and Rail Division that we had accumulated an amount of $66,910 of carryover funds and that they wished for us to expend rather immediately. To do so we need to amend our Unified Planning Work Program and we had proposed the actions as listed out on page 50 of your packet. We propose investigating purchasing software that will assist in downloading data that is collected by automatic passenger counters we have installed on two RoadRUNNER Transit buses. Currently that data is downloaded manually by staff. They need to
physically go over to the bus yards on Monday mornings, transfer a data
file, convert it to spreadsheet. This software, we have been told, would
allow this information to be uploaded to the Cloud and allow a much easier
dissemination of information on that. The other, and I'm going to skip
down to item 3 which is "add an additional item for tasks 5.5," and I'll direct
you to jump your packet to page 59 and 60 where we propose to join in
with the City of Las Cruces' long-range planning section. They're currently
developing an RFP to seek a consultant to develop an Active
Transportation Plan. This would look to identify gaps for non-motorized
transportation specifically in the City limits and in what we the MPO's
looking at, the urbanized area. We would add to this these transit funds.
We would look for the, they already have the emphasis but a greater
emphasis on connections to transit stops and so we're proposing to add
that to our Work Program. The specific amounts are going to be dependent upon the bid we receive on the software but we anticipate that
to be in the $27,000 range, allowing approximately, including the matches
$33,000 to be added to the Active Transportation Plan work. And then the
other change in our UPWP, skipping back up to that item 2, we're deleting
reference to the Coordinated Human Services Transportation Plan. What
we had proposed was doing a more localized update to a plan that the
State had already done. However, our initial reach-out to service
agencies and other transportation providers, we did not find a lot of
interest in pursuing that task and since it's not a statutory requirement we
thought our efforts would be better served working on other items. With
that I will hope to answer any questions you may have.

Flores: Councillor Eakman.

Eakman: Yes. Thank you Madam Chair. And to staff I'd like to ask what options
you looked at other than what was proposed here for the use of those
return funds from NMDOT. I'm asking this because we three City
Councillors are directly affected by this going straight to the City and not
being used for any other purpose that the County might have or the
various cities and colonias of Dona Ana County might have. So I'm
wondering what options were also looked at besides these.

Murphy: Madam Chair, Councillor Eakman. For these funds, and these are the
Transit 5303 funds, and pursuant to the Joint Powers Agreement since
those funds are allocated essentially for urban transit system planning, per
our Joint Powers Agreement the City is the sole matcher of these funds
and whereas our MPO PL funds are matched by also the County and the
Town of Mesilla. So we really did just consult with the City, we consulted
with the BPAC who have representation outside, and we consulted with
the TAC which also has representation outside as well but really we did
primarily look at within the City since the City is the one on the hook for
the match for this particular type of funding. Additionally because, if I
could give a shout-out to the City here, because I imagine they consider themselves a regional player, the bus system itself does go outside the City limits. So it could address places in the near County and also the urbanized area which includes the Town of Mesilla as well.

Eakman: You've answered my question. Thank you.

Flores: Anyone else? Okay, seeing no further discussion do we want to take a vote?

Barraza: Madam Chair. We need a motion on the floor first.

Flores: I thought we started with a motion. We started with the motion.

Barraza: We did?

Flores: Yeah.

Barraza: I thought that was for approval of the other resolution. I'm sorry.

Murphy: Mr. Love.

Love: Yes.

Murphy: Councillor Sorg.

Sorg: Yes.

Murphy: Councillor Pedroza.

Pedroza: Yes.

Murphy: Commissioner Rawson.

Rawson: Yes.

Murphy: Commissioner Solis.

Solis: Yes.

Murphy: Councillor Eakman.

Eakman: Yes.

Murphy: Mayor Barraza.
Barraza: Yes.
Murphy: And Chair Flores.
Flores: Yes.

MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY.

Flores: Okay. So moving …
Barraza: Madam Chair. Can I just make a comment?
Flores: Mayor Barraza. Go ahead.
Barraza: I too had the same question that Councillor Eakman had as to how that project was designated and I understand your point about the matching funds, but I also think that the other entities should have at least been able to have some say as to what projects would be considered in the future.
Flores: Well I think this was our opportunity where we could have not approved, we could have had a further discussion, someone could've come up with additional alternatives. So I mean …
Barraza: No, and I agree, but that's what I'm saying, just for the future if we could have staff consider that.
Flores: Okay. So what are you asking, that maybe perhaps they send us notice and say, "Here are some funds. For our next meeting we're going to ..."
Barraza: We have a resolution on the table for these funds …
Flores: Right.
Barraza: Do you have any projects that you would like to be considered? The stipulation is that each …
Flores: Would have to do the match.
Barraza: You'll have to have the match. Correct.
Flores: Right.
Barraza: Yes.
Flores: Okay. Does anybody have any comments to that? Would that (inaudible)?
Murphy: I think we can work with that.

Flores: Okay. Thank you.

7. DISCUSSION ITEMS

8.1 NMDOT update

Flores: All right. So we'll move on to discussion items, 8.1: New Mexico DOT updates. I believe that's Mr. Love. Do you have any updates?

Love: I did not come prepared to give updates but if anybody has any questions of any projects that we're looking to for the future that are currently under design I'd be more than happy to try to answer.

Flores: Okay. Councillor Sorg.

Sorg: Thank you Madam Chair. Mr. Love. Do we have any update on when the project on Solano and Main Street will begin, the intersection there?

Love: That's a good question and I'm thinking May or June, somewhere around that time they're going to start breaking ground.

Sorg: Thank you. Thank you Madam Chair.

Pedroza: Madam Chair.

Flores: Councillor Pedroza.

Pedroza: Thank you. When Mr. Doolittle has been here we have discussed the intersection of Triviz and Missouri and there's been a lot of discussion back and forth as to when the project will be deemed finished so that then the City can say, "Okay. It reverts to our control, the intersection reverts to our control now and if we think that the medians that have been installed are detrimental to the businesses and the residents then we can remove the medians." But as far as I can tell from Mr. Doolittle and he can correct me if I'm wrong but I think I'm understanding him, that point has not been reached even though there are no more orange barrels anyplace and it doesn't look like there's any more work being done. Do you have any idea what's going on, how soon we will be told that particular intersection now is within the control of the City?

Love: My understanding is that the project is physically completed, as you stated, but there's a claim I think by the contractor that has to be resolved before it can be completed on paper.
Pedroza: Okay. I see. Okay. Thank you. I'm going to ask you, I've asked Mr. Doolittle and he's agreed that once that happens he will notify me, I believe by e-mail. So would you do that if he's not available?

Love: I will make sure he gets the message.

Pedroza: Thank you. Thank you Madam Chair.

Flores: Any other questions for Mr. Love? Seeing none.

8. COMMITTEE AND STAFF COMMENTS

Flores: We'll move on to Committee and staff comments, so staff.

Murphy: Madam Chair. Just one announcement, we have extended our Transportation Improvement Program call for projects that we had published back in October. We have extended that deadline to February 24th. We did notify each of your staffs of this extension.

Flores: Councillor Pedroza.

Pedroza: Thank you Madam Chair. I sit on the Board of the South Central Solid Waste Authority and also on the Board of the Joint Utilities and I mention the two of them because some few years ago each one of them contracted with Suzanne Michaels to do informational articles to the Sun News and I believe that they have been very very effective because they say in language that laypeople can understand exactly what's going on and why. I suspect that if DOT were to, I don't mean every day, but every couple of weeks or so have an article that explains some of these fairly intricate processes that we're going through, that would be very very helpful to the general public that would know where their money or other monies is coming or going and what the intentions are. But that's just a suggestion.

Flores: Anyone else have a comment?

Murphy: Madam Chair. I apologize. I missed one. We're working with RoadRUNNER Transit. They have scheduled two public hearings at the Mesilla Valley Intermodal Transfer Center on February 16th from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and on February 25th, which is a Saturday, from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and these are to discuss proposed route changes to their system, specifically I believe on Route 8 on Picacho and affecting service on Solano as well. So if you can make any of these meetings that would be great.
Pedroza: Can you give the dates again?

Flores: So the second one was February 25th from 10:00 to 11:30 and that would be at the transit …

Murphy: At the Transit Center.

Flores: At the, okay. And then what was the first one, from 10:00 to 11:00 as well?

Murphy: First one, yeah. February 16th, that's next Thursday from 10:00 to 11:30 and there'll be maps posted in the passenger waiting area. I believe a presentation will be made. Additionally if we don't already, we'll have those routes and documents on display on our website.

Flores: Okay. Any other comments? Mayor Barraza.

Barraza: Madam Chair. I just wanted to apologize to the Board for walking in late. I was at White Sands Missile Range at a military-civilian forum and that was my reasons for being in late.

Flores: Okay. Anyone else?

Solis: Madam Chair.

Flores: Commissioner Solis.

Solis: I just want to say that I want to apologize for also being late this afternoon. I've got a little bit of a, I don't know what you call it, you know cold. But anyway I'm here and I'm thankful to be here and I just wanted to say that I want to say thank you to be on this Committee and hopefully I can serve well. So thank you for having me.

Flores: And I would just like to welcome Commissioner Rawson. He's been with us at least once before, maybe twice before. No, but I mean you've come in as a proxy at least once before and it's our first time to have Commissioner Solis and I just want to welcome you and that's it. Okay. So seeing no more comments from staff or the Committee Members.

9. PUBLIC COMMENT

Flores: Do we have anybody from the public that would like to make a comment? And I'm seeing somebody shake their head "no."

10. ADJOURNMENT (1:42 PM)
Flores: So if I don't have any objections we'll move to adjournment. Any objecting? Seeing none.

Sorg: Move to adjourn.

Flores: We're adjourned.

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Chairperson
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MESILLA VALLEY METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
POLICY COMMITTEE
ACTION FORM FOR THE MEETING OF April 12, 2017

AGENDA ITEM:
6.1 Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities Advisory Committee Appointments

ACTION REQUESTED:
Review, Evaluation, and Appointment

SUPPORT INFORMATION:
Letters of Interest from Jess M. Waller and John Gagne
Sample Ballot

DISCUSSION:
The Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities Advisory Committee (BPAC) has 11 members: 6 citizen representatives and 5 staff representatives. According to the MPO Bylaws, the staff representatives are appointed by the head of the department they will represent within each jurisdiction. The citizen appointments are made by the Policy Committee.

Currently, there is one citizen representative positions open: Bicycle Community Representative.

There are two types of citizen representatives: jurisdictional and modal. The jurisdictional representatives will be selected to represent the three MPO member agencies – one per agency. Based on MPO staff’s interpretation of the Bylaws, this representative should understand planning issues and facility needs surrounding non-motorized transportation. This understanding is required to integrate walking and biking into the regional transportation system. Finally, the role of the citizen should be to promote walking and biking in their respective jurisdiction.

The modal representatives consist of two bicycling community representatives and one pedestrian community representative. For their respective roles, the desired representative should understand the planning issues and facility needs for bicycling or walking, and promote bicycling or walking in the community at large.

Attached to this Action Form are the letters of interest from the individuals who answered staff’s request for volunteers on the BPAC. Please review the letters, evaluate the applicants’ abilities to fulfill the roles described above, and prepare questions that may help you make a final decision. As there are multiple candidates, the appointee will be selected by ballots to be provided to the Policy Committee at the meeting.
Hi Andrew,

Yes, of course I’m interested.

That’s too bad Len couldn’t do this. I would be a strong advocate for bike lanes, with outreach to the cycling community (Zia-Velo, Velo Cruces, Bike and Chowder Club, EP Bicycle Club, EP Cyclists, Outdoor Adventures, Ride-On-Sports, Crazy Cats, etc.). Note the EP bicycle clubs use roads in the southern part of our district.

I think we are all better served by linking up the broader recreational, commuter, and road cycling communities with the BPAC and City of Las Cruces, for more and improved bike lanes, and perhaps an annual City of Las Cruces or Mountain View Medical-sponsored century to raise awareness, improve safety, while benefiting local charities.

Linking local tourist assets such as Mesilla, Organ Mts. Natl. Mon., and Fort Sheldon might also be ways to draw increased commerce and tourism. Strategically located businesses and restroom facilities could be signed as bicycle friendly, thus increasing their revenue.

I must note, however, the multiuse paths, while certainly nice and warranted, do not serve the needs of the local road cycling community. Mixing pedestrians and cyclists on the same path actually terrifies me. On the other hand, I feel the ride-to-work commuter lanes would be exactly the sort of thing the local road cycling community would support and use. Also, having more neighborhood school bike paths is another area I feel the local road cycling community would fully support.

P.S. No road cyclist is going to get off their bike, and walk across an intersection on a pedestrian walkway. We are in the road and part of the road, bike lane or no bike lane, and just as cyclists need to be respectful of traffic laws, cars must also share the road with us per current NMDOT laws.

Thanks for considering me again and inviting me to the last meeting so I could learn more,

Sincerely,
Jess

Jess M. Waller, Ph.D.
575-524-5249 (w)
575-496-1682 (c)
Good Morning,

I am writing to let you know that Mr. Len Paulozzi, the successful applicant from the previous BPAC appointment cycle, had to tender his resignation.

MPO Staff would like to solicit your interest in renewing your application for the BPAC vacancy. We will open a new call for candidates that will end at close of business on March 24. We will then take the item to the MPO Policy Committee on April 12 for selection.

Please let MPO Staff know if you are still interested in serving on the BPAC.

Thank you.

Andrew Wray
Transportation Planner/Mesilla Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization/Community Development
Direct: 575-528-3070 Main: 575-528-3043, awray@las-cruces.org
Hi Andrew,

Please see below:

My name is John Gagne. I am writing you to let you know I am interested in applying for the open position on the MPO BPAC.

I relocated to Las Cruces in February 2016, and have been an avid cycler since 2004. In 2007, myself and a friend cycled across the U.S. on a 41 day trip from California to Florida, where I gained a lot of perspective on how towns, cities and states handle their road maintenance and care for the cycling community. Now being a New Mexican, I very much want to be a part of bettering the local community and making cycling more accessible and safe for our citizens.

I want to get more involved with the local NM community and know being a part of the advisory committee, along with providing a voice for the betterment of the cycling community would be a very rewarding experience.

Please let me know how I can apply for the MPO position, and if there is any other information that can be shared at this time.

Thank you for your consideration and please let me know if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

-John
Hi Andrew,

Great to hear from you.

I would be very interested in applying for the BPAC vacancy. Please let me know if you need any information or another short bio/letter of interest for the position.

Thank you,

-John

Good Morning,

I am writing to let you know that Mr. Len Paulozzi, the successful applicant from the previous BPAC appointment cycle, had to tender his resignation.

MPO Staff would like to solicit your interest in renewing your application for the BPAC vacancy. We will open a new call for candidates that will end at close of business on March 24. We will then take the item to the MPO Policy Committee on April 12 for selection.

Please let MPO Staff know if you are still interested in serving on the BPAC.

Thank you.
Andrew Wray
Transportation Planner/Mesilla Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization/Community Development
Direct: 575-528-3070 Main: 575-528-3043, awray@las-cruces.org

METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
LAS CRUCES   DOÑA ANA   MESILLA
Ballot for Position on the BPAC

Policy Committee member

______  John Gagne

______  Jess M. Waller

________________________
Signature
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MESILLA VALLEY METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
POLICY COMMITTEE
ACTION FORM FOR THE MEETING OF April 12, 2017

AGENDA ITEM:
6.2 Appointment of Mesilla Valley MPO Representatives to the Regional Leadership Consortium

ACTION REQUESTED:
Appointment of Mesilla Valley MPO Representatives to the Regional Leadership Consortium

DISCUSSION:
This item is to select a primary representative and an alternate to serve as a voting member on the Regional Leadership Consortium on behalf of the Mesilla Valley MPO.
AGENDA ITEM:
7.1 Committee Training

DISCUSSION:
MPO Staff will give a presentation regarding the MPO website followed by a presentation on FHWA performance measures.