

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

4 The following are minutes for the meeting of the Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities
5 Advisory Committee of the Mesilla Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)
6 which was held January 17, 2017 at 5:00 p.m. in Commission Chambers at Dona Ana
7 County Government Building, 845 Motel Blvd., Las Cruces, New Mexico.
8

9 **MEMBERS PRESENT:** George Pearson, Chair (City of Las Cruces Citizen Rep)
10 Ashleigh Curry (Mesilla Citizen Rep)
11 Jolene Herrera (NMDOT)
12 Mark Leisher (DAC Citizen Rep)
13 James Nunez (City of Las Cruces Rep)
14 Len Paulozzi (Bicycle Com. Rep.)
15 Samuel Paz (Dona Ana County)
16 David Shearer (NMSU - Environmental Safety) (arrived 5:08)
17 Lance Shepan (Mesilla Marshall's Department)
18 Andrew Bencomo (Ped. Community Rep)
19

20 **MEMBERS ABSENT:** Maggie Billings
21

22 **STAFF PRESENT:** Tom Murphy (MPO)
23 Andrew Wray (MPO)
24 Michael McAdams (MPO)
25 Dominic Loya (MPO)
26

27 **OTHERS PRESENT:** Becky Baum, Recording Secretary, RC Creations, LLC
28

29 **1. CALL TO ORDER (5:08 p.m.)**
30

31 Pearson: Okay, I'll go ahead and call the meeting to order for our Mesilla Valley
32 MPO Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities Advisory Committee meeting. Let's
33 do introductions of the panel as we go down, because we do have a new
34 member. So we'll start at this end with Mark.
35

36 Leisher: Mark Leisher, Dona Ana County Citizen's rep.
37

38 Herrera: Jolene Herrera, NMDOT.
39

40 Shepan: Lance Shepan, Mesilla Marshall's office.
41

42 Curry: Ashleigh Curry, Mesilla Citizen's representative.
43

44 Bencomo: Andrew Bencomo, Pedestrian representative.
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46 Paulozzi: Len Paulozzi, new Community representative.

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Paz: Samuel Paz, Dona Ana County.

Shearer: David Shearer, Environmental and Safety, NMSU.

Pearson: And I'm George Pearson, City of Las Cruces Citizens representative.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Pearson: Next order is approval of the agenda. Do we have any comments on the agenda or do you want to send me a motion to approve as presented?

Curry: I'll put forth a motion to approve as presented.

Leisher: I second that.

Pearson: We have a motion to approve the agenda, with a second. All in favor "aye."

MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY.

Pearson: Any opposed? So the agenda's been approved.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

3.1 October 18, 2016

Pearson: Next on the agenda is approval of the minutes of October 18th. We'll open that for discussion, is there any comments on the minutes? I'll hear a motion to approve the minutes as presented.

Bencomo: So moved.

Shepan: Second.

Pearson: We have a motion and a second to approve the minutes as presented. All in favor "aye."

MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY.

Pearson: Any opposed? So that passes.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

Pearson: Item four is public comment. Do we have any members of the public that wish to comment? Seeing none.

1 **5. ELECTION OF BPAC OFFICERS FOR CY 2017**

2
3 Pearson: We'll move on. First meeting of each year we have an election of officers,
4 so I'll turn the Chair over to staff to ask for nominations for Chair and Vice
5 Chair.

6
7 McAdams: Staff would recommend, ask for a recommendation for Chair and Vice
8 Chair.

9
10 Curry: I would like to recommend George Pearson continue on as Chair.

11
12 McAdams: Okay is there a second or?

13
14 Shearer: If it needs a second I'll second it at least.

15
16 Pearson: Are you doing both of them together?

17
18 McAdams: Yes.

19
20 Pearson: Okay so I nominate Ashleigh as Vice Chair.

21
22 McAdams: I guess we should do it first the Chair and then we're do the Vice Chair.

23
24 Pearson: If you're running the meeting right now you get to pick.

25
26 McAdams: What? I get to pick what?

27
28 Pearson: How to run the meeting.

29
30 McAdams: Oh yeah. I think I would like to have it first we go with the Chair and vote
31 on that and then go to the Vice Chair to make it sort of clear I guess. So I
32 guess we should ask for a roll call if you'd like.

33
34 Pearson: He's the Chair.

35
36 McAdams: I mean the Chair is George Pearson. Recommendation, it's been first it's,
37 motion has been made and seconded. So I guess we'd ask for roll call on
38 this. I guess by, we'll go down the list.

39
40 Bencomo: Mr. Chair If I'm not mistaken I think procedure is after you ...

41
42 McAdams: Okay.

43
44 Bencomo: Somebody nominates somebody, if nobody else comes up then they're
45 supposed to ask I believe three times if there are any other nominations.

46

1 McAdams: Oh yes three times.
2
3 Bencomo: And after the third time if there aren't any, then we take a vote on that. I
4 believe that's procedure.
5
6 McAdams: Okay I've asked the first time I'll guess I'll ask the second time, are there
7 any further nominations for the Chair of the Committee. And the third will
8 be, is there any more nomination asking before the final call? Okay. Can
9 we have a, I guess we can have a, I guess "aye" I guess. Can we just
10 ...those approving say "aye" those that disapprove say "nay."

11
12 MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY.

13
14 McAdams: Motion carries. George you're again our Chairman.

15
16 Pearson: Okay.

17
18 McAdams: And now I'd like to go to the Vice Chairman and have a motion, I'd like a
19 motion for the Vice Chairman.

20
21 Curry: I would like to nominate Andrew Bencomo as Vice Chair.

22
23 Paz: Second that nomination.

24
25 McAdams: Okay. Is there any other nominations that would, anybody else would like
26 to put in the hat.

27
28 Pearson: Move to close the nominations.

29
30 McAdams: We can close the nominations too. All agreeing say "aye," those that do
31 not agree say "nay."

32
33 MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY.

34
35 McAdams: It passes. So Andrew you are now the Vice Chairman. Congratulations to
36 both George and Andrew.

37
38 Pearson: You got ahead of me there. Okay so I guess I'm taking back the Chair
39 then for the continuation of the agenda.

40
41 McAdams: Yes.

42
43 **6. ACTION ITEMS**

44
45 **6.1 Proposed FY 0216-2021 TIP Amendment**

46

1 Pearson: So we have discussion items. We have a TIP amendment.
2
3 McAdams: Okay I'll let Andrew.
4
5 Pearson: And something I guess I want to comment a little bit for some of our newer
6 members even, we deal with federal monies and lots of acronyms, so if
7 there's any acronyms that don't make sense, please speak up and we'll try
8 to make sure to get staff to clarify some. Go ahead Andrew.
9
10 Wray: Thank you Mr. Chair. Tonight we are considering an amendment
11 requested by NMDOT. Mr. Loya's handing out the sheet with the
12 amendment on it. We didn't have it in time to get it in the packet. The
13 amendment is for LC00160, adding \$2.3 million in local funds. Beyond
14 that I actually don't know much more about it since it was very last minute
15 so I'd like to turn the floor over to Ms. Herrera for further explanation.
16
17 Herrera: Thanks. Per federal law we have to show all funding sources for every
18 project that has federal funding. The City will be doing extensive utility
19 work during this project, \$2.322 million worth of utility work to be exact, so
20 this amendment is just to show the local funding.
21 And Andrew I do have a question, this is listed as a discussion item
22 but it should be an action item on the agenda.
23
24 Wray: Yes it should, I apologize that was not caught during our review. But yes,
25 this is an action item.
26
27 Herrera: Okay. Thanks.
28
29 Pearson: Any further discussion on this item?
30
31 Bencomo: Mr. Chair I have a question. Maybe this is for Ms. Herrera, is this part of
32 the Valley Drive reconstruction project, that whole thing?
33
34 Herrera: Yes sir. And they'll be doing the utilities when we rip up the road so that
35 they don't have to come back later so.
36
37 Bencomo: Okay. Thank you.
38
39 Pearson: Any further discussion? I'll hear a motion to approve as presented.
40
41 Shepan: I motion.
42
43 Leisher: I second that.
44
45 Pearson: We have a motion and a second to approve this item as presented. All in
46 favor "aye."

1
2 MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY.

3
4 Pearson: Any opposed? This passes.

5
6 **6.2 Proposed FY2017-FY0218 UPWP Amendment**

7
8 Pearson: Our next item, this is also an action item, it should be. Is that correct?

9
10 Murphy: Yes sir.

11
12 Pearson: Go ahead.

13
14 Murphy: Mr. Chair, action item 5.2 (*should be 6.2*) is a proposed amendment to the
15 Unified Planning Work Program for federal fiscal year 2017 and federal
16 fiscal year 2018. We received notice from New Mexico Department of
17 Transit and Rail that we were going to have \$66,910 of carryover. So we
18 are looking to add a project to participate in our work program, actually
19 we're going to be doing two. As stated in the packet we are looking for a
20 software purchase to integrate the bus passenger counters that we
21 purchased a couple of fiscal years ago. This would allow us to download
22 those counts into the Cloud and that'd be approximately \$27,000 that we
23 would move into UPWP item 3.1 with our I believe it's titled traffic
24 reporting.

25 And the second project would be we would join in with the City of
26 Las Cruces' Community Development Department. They are proposing to
27 go out to bid for an active transportation plan and we would be putting the
28 remaining amount of that money, including the local match, about \$32,000
29 added to their plan purchase to seek a consultant to do an active
30 transportation plan. What that plan is scoped at is to have someone come
31 in, identify gaps in the pedestrian and bicycle network, particularly in our
32 case with our transit money added to it, particularly how those pedestrian
33 routes relate to current transit stops. So we are looking for a positive
34 recommendation to the Policy Committee from this group.

35
36 Pearson: So the bus counting, that would help with figuring out how many bikes get
37 put on buses for example?

38
39 Murphy: What the passenger counters do actually is give us a geographic location
40 of which stops are being used and at what time, so which are the heaviest
41 used stops which would be more deserving of increased passenger
42 amenities or future route planning.

43
44 Pearson: So it doesn't separate out, it just counts passengers, it wouldn't count
45 bikes put on the bike racks.

1 Murphy: No, the actual hardware itself are sensors that are placed on the doors of
2 the buses that count people coming on and off. We depend upon the
3 drivers to make notations in the fare box when a bike is placed on the
4 rack. But since the bike doesn't go in or out the door we don't have the
5 ability ...
6

7 Pearson: Well this is an automated system then. That is correct. And for the
8 planning process you're just supplementing the City's funds, MPO isn't
9 actually doing anything you're just supporting the planning that's going to
10 be done?
11

12 Murphy: Yes sir, we are supporting it. I think we'd also agree to participate on local
13 assistance but now we'll be funding it and I think we'll have a greater roll in
14 the selection committee ...
15

16 Pearson: Okay.
17

18 Murphy: And directing the consultant's works.
19

20 Pearson: So some of that money is essentially staff time also?
21

22 Murphy: The staff time was already allocated in the UPWP as local assistance.
23 This money is going to represent the cash payment to the ultimate
24 contactor that's selected.
25

26 Pearson: Any other questions Committee Members?
27

28 Curry: Well I do have a question. It seems to me that, and maybe this is just
29 backwards, but an active transportation plan having that planning done, it
30 seems that they would work hand in hand with a bike/pedestrian
31 coordinator who's already in the know or in the system. So is there any
32 plan for the MPO to support that? To support a position of a bike/ped.
33 coordinator? I know that they'll come back in eventually and say you need
34 to do this and this and this, but it seems like to stop that gap of things
35 getting lost from the report that maybe a position in place all ready would
36 be helpful.
37

38 Murphy: Mr. Chair, Ms. Curry. This was an already begun initiative by the City of
39 Las Cruces. I'm fairly certain that the City has a person assigned part time
40 to bicycle coordination that's also within that department and I would be
41 fairly certain they've consulted with him and he's been involved in the
42 process. What we're hoping to do really is to get some more information
43 included in that report that gives us a better idea of how to program
44 eventual projects that effect pedestrians, bicyclists, and transit riders.
45

1 Curry: Okay thank you. I think with all the reorganization within the City it
2 seemed up in question as to whether that person is still there, that position
3 is still there. So it was just a thought that you know hiring somebody
4 who's sole job is just to do that would be great ahead of time, or in
5 conjunction with this active transportation plan.
6

7 Murphy: Mr. Chair, Ms. Curry. I agree with that approach, however this funding's
8 not ongoing so we would not be able to assure that the position would be
9 able to be in place more than one year.
10

11 Curry: Okay. Thank you.
12

13 Pearson: This is part of the Comprehensive Plan update for the City, is that true?
14

15 Murphy: Mr. Chair I don't know. It's out of the same section. I don't know if they
16 view that as a separate work item or if they view it as completely
17 integrated with the Comp Plan.
18

19 Pearson: Cause the little bit that I've heard of the Comprehensive Plan update
20 they're putting it into different sections. We had Dan Burden here that did
21 some analysis for livability kind of things, so I don't know if this is part of
22 that or maybe there's a transportation component of the long range plan.
23

24 Murphy: You may be right. I didn't think to ask that specific question.
25

26 Bencomo: Mr. Chair I have a couple of questions. So looking at the funding it's
27 \$66,910 and you mentioned \$27,000 for the passenger counters, and then
28 you said the remaining funds and you mentioned \$32,000, that's \$59,000
29 so would it be \$32,000 or would it be \$39,000? Just looking at the math.
30

31 Murphy: Mr. Chair, Mr. Bencomo. I apologize for not having completely done the
32 math. Those numbers are going to vary. It is partially based on an
33 outdated quote we had gotten from the bus system vender, you know the
34 original estimate we had at \$27,000, I do not know if what current
35 estimates going to come in at exactly that, so I want to leave a little bit of
36 room for adjustment. Additionally that \$66,910 counts for the federal
37 funds and so it's required a 20% match as FTA funds are so there's going
38 to be a 20% additional local funds in that. Part we'll have to divert for
39 match on the bus counting software and then the rest of it, so I think as we
40 were sitting down and roughly with Mr. Weir, roughly calculating that. The
41 number that came down was around \$32,000, \$33,000 of additional
42 monies into that project fund of which I think they originally had funded
43 \$150,000. So there's going to be some change as we move forward, so
44 that's why I'm trying to keep the numbers in a general state.
45

1 Bencomo: Okay. Thank you. And just a comment on that. I agree with Ashleigh a
2 bike/ped. coordinator would be awesome if that was a position the City
3 could in some way, shape, or form in the near future put in place as a
4 permanent position. It's so important in all the work we're trying to do with
5 active transportation. Also the active transportation plan, we've had some
6 discussions with Srijana and Armando, I think he's sitting right there in the
7 audience, it's a wonderful thing, that active transportation plan is going to
8 be so important when it comes to bicycle and pedestrian activity in this
9 community and how we're going to move forward with that. And so I think
10 this is a great project and I'm glad to see that this funding is in there for
11 that. Hopefully we can support that.
12
13 Herrera: Mr. Chair.
14
15 Pearson: Yes.
16
17 Herrera: I have a question. So being that we're putting part of this funding from
18 your UPWP into the project, does that mean that the consultant will have
19 some sort of responsibility to report to this group? Or maybe not report to
20 but work with would be a better way to put it.
21
22 Murphy: Mr. Chair, Ms. Herrera. I think that's probably a wonderful idea to have
23 them. As the project's not been released for requests for proposals as of
24 yet, I don't think they've had a work plan designated. But I can't imagine
25 any serious professional effort not wanting to come talk to and listen to
26 this group. So thanks for mentioning, I think we will keep that in mind. I
27 think Armando will keep that in mind as well and it'll most likely happen.
28
29 Herrera: Thank you.
30
31 Pearson: So just on the funding, it's left over funds from the previous year and you
32 mentioned about a match, was that match already done or how does the
33 match work out and where does the funding come from? The City of Las
34 Cruces funds that's doing the match.
35
36 Murphy: Mr. Chair. Yes, it's City of Las Cruces funds that'll be doing the match.
37 It's funding that Mr. Weir already had in his budget associated with that
38 active transportation plan, so rather than have to go and try and have the
39 City find additional money, we're essentially leveraging that money to take
40 advantage of the availability of the federal funds.
41
42 Pearson: Okay. Any other questions? I'll hear a motion to approve this as
43 presented.
44
45 Curry: I will put forth a motion to approve as presented.
46

1 Shepan: Second.

2

3 Pearson: We have a motion and a second. All in favor "aye."

4

5 MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY.

6

7 Pearson: Any opposed?

8

9 **7. COMMITTEE AND STAFF COMMENTS**

10

11 **7.1 MPO Staff Update**

12

13 Pearson: So we're onto MPO update. Does staff have anything for us?

14

15 McAdams: No I think we don't have any staff update other than we're still working on
16 the APC stuff and gathering data for that. And also, okay what ... okay.

17

18 Wray: Excuse me Mr. Chair I just remembered there is one thing MPO staff has
19 decided to extend the call for projects for the TIP till February 24th. We
20 put out a notice in the newspaper this past Sunday. There is no currently
21 a notice on the MPO website at the moment but that'll be going up
22 tomorrow, so just FYI on that. But the February 24th deadline is a hard
23 deadline, we will not be able to accept anything past close of business that
24 date. Thank you.

25

26 McAdams: The other thing we're doing right now is inventorying all the bus shelters
27 and that's important to the Committee because all of those shelters have
28 bicycle racks, so we're making sure, maybe if there's a need to move
29 those bus shelters for a bicycle use we can do that, that's one thing you
30 may want to ask us to do if you think it's appropriate.

31

32 Pearson: I wouldn't say all because I noticed when I started noticing new ones with
33 bike racks on them.

34

35 McAdams: Oh really. Okay. That's what we're ...

36

37 Pearson: So some of the very old, the very first generation shelters, the green ones
38 ...

39

40 McAdams: Yes the old ones ...

41

42 Pearson: They might not have bike.

43

44 McAdams: That's correct and though the new ones do and so they'll be good, which
45 one's do have bike racks and which one's don't. So it's a good inventory.

1 That's all I have at this point. And we would like to I guess turn it over to
2 the next participant.

3 4 **7.2 Local Projects update**

5
6 Pearson: Local projects. City of Las Cruces.

7
8 McAdams: Local projects, yeah.

9
10 Nunez: I'll get on the roll I hope. I was a couple minutes tardy. The projects I
11 have listed here are like the last meeting I had mentioned the dam trails
12 we're about 80% complete. Tony Trevino wasn't in the office today so I
13 was unable to see if they've actually completed those yet. But I know
14 there were some problems with some of the rains last time I talked so they
15 weren't able to get that to 100%.

16 I know that we had just, if you guys had noticed along Solano they
17 had the ADA ramps in certain sections there and then also ADA ramp
18 project, let's see what I wrote. I know that we have Nemish and then also
19 along ADA ramps, I know they completed at Roadrunner and Golf Course
20 and to the north of that intersection. And then they're going to be doing a
21 road reconstruction along that area.

22 And then in design right now we have the Valley, Picacho to Boutz,
23 that's where actually a number of people in our office were working on a
24 number of injuries and businesses and so I know that they've got, they'll
25 be doing, adding curb and gutter all along that from Picacho all the way
26 down to Boutz on that design coming through. They're working through
27 those coordination with business owners and whatnot.

28
29 Pearson: So the City project is going to go past NMDOT area? Because the Valley
30 Drive project, no, what did you say? I'm on the wrong street.

31
32 Nunez: No you're close. I said from Picacho all the way down to Boutz, so that's
33 what we're working on, same project I believe. Is that correct?

34
35 Pearson: That goes to Avenida de Mesilla.

36
37 Nunez: Yeah Boutz, Avenida de Mesilla. Is that correct? Don't they split the road
38 right there? Avenida de Mesilla. Okay, so the wrong thing. You're right.
39 I'm on the other side of town. Sorry.

40
41 Pearson: Okay.

42
43 Nunez: I was just on Boutz for another project.

44
45 Pearson: Boutz is the next ...
46

1 Nunez: Thanks. Yeah. Then also in our office we're just working on the design
2 trying to get the 100% on the downtown two-way. So that's what I have
3 unless anybody else has any questions or can think of some other
4 projects that they've seen going on.
5
6 Pearson: I guess on the two-way, well the Las Cruces Avenue is part of that whole
7 construction.
8
9 Nunez: Right.
10
11 Pearson: And the Downtown Plan was approved with an entry that says "Do the
12 Hadley bike boulevards" so I want to just ask if you are doing design
13 considerations for the part through Las Cruces Avenue where there might
14 be the bike boulevard?
15
16 Nunez: Las Cruces at what section again? Cause it goes through the Downtown
17 area, where exactly?
18
19 Pearson: Well if the bike boulevard hasn't really been defined officially but common
20 sense says it's going to come off of Hadley down to Mesquite, Mesquite to
21 Las Cruces, Las Cruces all the way down through to Mesilla again where
22 you can go back on Hadley. So whatever part of that project, I think the
23 Las Cruces Avenue's getting a complete reconstruction as part of that. So
24 I'm just asking about design considerations for a bike boulevard through
25 there, or how bicycles will be handled through that, cause that's a major
26 connection piece for bicyclists from the east to the west side of the City.
27
28 Nunez: I know my boss, Jerry Cordova, and Hector Terrazas are working on that.
29 I can ask them. I'm just trying to understand specifically which section
30 you're talking. You named them and I was writing them down.
31
32 Pearson: Las Cruces Avenue between essentially, whatever part is getting
33 reconstructed.
34
35 Nunez: Okay.
36
37 Pearson: In the Downtown area.
38
39 Nunez: Right. I don't know how far that extends past, all the way over to Campo
40 or not sure and to the west.
41
42 Pearson: I don't know if it goes to Campo, it's at least between the two ways.
43
44 Nunez: Right. Okay.
45
46 Pearson: One ways the conversion.

1
2 Nunez: I'll ask the question.
3
4 Pearson: Okay.
5
6 Nunez: Thanks.
7
8 Curry: Mr. Chair. Mr. Nunez I actually have a question for you about the project
9 on Roadrunner, the complete reconstruction. Do you have a timeframe on
10 when that will be completed?
11
12 Nunez: I do not have that but I do know that I drove through there last week and
13 they were working on the ADA ramps, so I'm going to assume, well it's a
14 little rough right now, they can't pour through the winter on certain days,
15 the asphalt because of temperature concerns. But I know they are in
16 contract because they're doing the work, contractor.
17
18 Curry: There're two projects, so one of them is the ADA ramps and then the other
19 one was a complete reconstruction on Roadrunner itself.
20
21 Nunez: As far as I understand it's the same contactor, yet they do that work first.
22 They do the curbs, they do the ramps.
23
24 Curry: Okay.
25
26 Nunez: And then they come back and do the asphalt.
27
28 Curry: Would you be willing to bring us kind of an update or completion date on
29 that? It affects Desert Hills Elementary which has a walking route and it
30 affects the walking route and so if you could give us an update of when
31 they think they're going to complete that. We're trying to come up with a
32 route in the meantime, a backup plan, to have an end date would be nice.
33
34 Nunez: All right, well you just made me think of two things. First is the walking
35 route right now they, during the construction and part of the sidewalk will
36 be closed. But then they would have that completed first before they do
37 the reconstruction of the roadway. So you're more interested in when
38 you'd have the sidewalks completed, correct?
39
40 Curry: Well when they did the project on Lees Drive they wouldn't let us use the
41 sidewalks when they were doing construction on the roadways, so I'm
42 going to assume it's the same thing, that they don't want the kids walking
43 along, so I think it all ties together when it comes to kids walking.
44
45 Nunez: Right. I understand. All right, I'll look for that answer too.
46

1 Curry: Thank you.
2
3 Nunez: Thank you.
4
5 McAdams: I guess we should switch to New Mexico DOT.
6
7 Pearson: Well we've got Dona Ana County.
8
9 McAdams: Dona Ana County.
10
11 Pearson: Do we have any updates from the County?
12
13 Paz: No updates at this time. One thing that we have going on is we have the
14 TAP application that's going through its process. I'm hoping to hear good
15 news back from that in March some time.
16
17 Pearson: Okay. Town of Mesilla have anything?
18
19 Shepan: No sir, nothing.
20
21 Pearson: NMSU.
22
23 Shearer: A number of small projects they're finishing up. Bike lanes on Espina on
24 the campus now. I've got a road diet reducing Espina from four lane down
25 to two lane and bike lanes on both sides and that sort of completes a
26 circle route within the campus where we have bike lanes continuous 25
27 mile an hour speed limit with still connecting up Stewart, Espina, Wells,
28 and Arrowhead, so a circle route. We've added on a new bike fix station
29 so we have three on campus now which we think is good. For pedestrians
30 we're adding a new, just finished up adding a new laser speed reminder
31 on Wells to try and slow down as they go through campus south housing
32 area. We've added, last fall, and reminding people we've added a new
33 walkway along Jordan where we had a number of pedestrians walking out
34 to the new bookstore, so we have a separate walkway for them to walk on.
35 And of course the City did mention, but the University crosswalk is being
36 installed with a HAWK lighting system. It's got I think another 10 more
37 days. I think they listed it in the newspaper of taking about 20 days for
38 construction so hopefully that'll be done soon. And yeah on the fee circle
39 on the campus we're extending a bike lane in the mall so we have a
40 specific bike lane and walking lane in that so. A lot of little things but we're
41 moving along there.
42
43 Pearson: What's the location for your new bike repair station?
44
45 Shearer: Bike repair station, I'm sorry it's at the Engineering Complex. So it's on
46 Frenger Mall. It's near the C-3, Engineering Complex 3. So we have one

1 there, one at the Corbet, and one in south housing at the Aggie Express
2 Station so.

3
4 Pearson: Okay. Thank you.

5
6 **7.3 NMDOT Projects update**

7
8 Pearson: NMDOT.

9
10 Herrera: Thank you Mr. Chair. We don't have any construction going on now but
11 there will be some coming up soon, two projects actually at the same time,
12 but really far away from each other so don't panic yet. One of them is on
13 US-70 from Aguirre Springs to the County line with Otero County. It's
14 basically just finishing up the pavement preservation that we kind of
15 started a couple of years ago going all the way to the county line. That will
16 start probably about mid March. They're on suspension right now just due
17 to the weather so that suspension ends March 6th and then they'll do a
18 little bit of ramp up time so mid to late March you'll see construction out
19 there.

20 Same timeframe for the Spitz/Solano/US-70 intersection. Hopefully
21 that project goes a lot faster than the other one did. There's only 240
22 weather working days allotted for the project so that's hopefully a lot
23 quicker.

24 And then in design we have the Valley Drive project, that one is
25 scheduled to let in May of this year and so far everything is on schedule
26 so you should probably start seeing construction on that project in fall.

27 And then we have bigger kind of further out project, the University/
28 Triviz realignment, that whole interchange is happening. It's scheduled to
29 let October 2018 so we will have a couple of years of design on that one,
30 but we're moving along.

31
32 Pearson: So the US-70 project is distinct from the safety project?

33
34 Herrera: Yes. Thank you. I forgot to mention that one. That one also is in design.
35 It will go to bid in April of this year and so this pavement preservation
36 project will be complete before that other project starts, so there won't be
37 overlap on those two.

38
39 Bencomo: What was that last project? What is it?

40
41 Herrera: Oh I'm sorry, it's the US-70 over the pass adding the wider shoulders ...

42
43 Bencomo: Okay.

44
45 Herrera: For cyclists. The safety project that we're doing.

46

1 Bencomo: That's right, I remember.
2
3 Herrera: So it won't overlap with this one that I was talking about.
4
5 Bencomo: All right. Thank you. And also I'm sorry, I missed it. The Spitz/Main/US-
6 70 reconstruction intersection, when is that going to start?
7
8 Herrera: Probably you're going to start seeing barrels out there mid to late March.
9
10 Bencomo: Thank you.
11
12 Herrera: And on that project we will be having monthly meetings for the public to
13 keep everybody aware of what's happening and the contractor will be
14 there to answer any questions.
15
16 Pearson: Thank you.

17 **7.4 Committee Members update**

18
19
20 Pearson: Okay and next we have some Committee Member updates. I asked this
21 to be added to our agenda so that I remembered to ask everybody and I
22 guess I'll start. At some point we had talked about metrics that are
23 needed, performance standards that the transportation act is required and
24 I know MPO's been doing some work on that so I'm wondering if we've
25 come up with any decisions as to how we're counting bike/ped. Are we
26 doing single day counts of different locations? Are we doing multiple
27 counts at different locations? Have those kinds of things been decided
28 and would they be used to validate for example what the ACS that the
29 census department comes up with to try to figure out a percentage of
30 commuters on bicycle or pedestrian.
31
32 McAdams: We received notice from NMDOT about the availability of bicycle counters
33 and they're working up the legal details of how those can be loaned to us.
34 So that's forthcoming. We're also looking through the bicycle facilities
35 plan, additional money from Parks and Rec. concerning continuous
36 counters and we're going to look at that as well, but that's separate from
37 the MPO that's really part of the City's Parks and Rec. So we're ongoing.
38 The thing about performance measure, I think we're going to have to
39 decide that later because the performance measure for bicycles and
40 pedestrians are really kind of loose and I think we're going to have to
41 decide how we're going to look at performance standards on that basis.
42 And we will be welcome to, any suggestion from the Committee too.
43
44 Pearson: So does NMDOT have some guidance or their own thing that they're doing
45 that they have to meet?
46

1 Herrera: Yes we do. Actually we have to set our safety performance targets,
2 targets, not the measures. The measures have come out from the federal
3 government so we're setting performance targets and we have to have
4 those in place by August. We are having a workshop with all of the MPOs
5 in the state, I think it's the first week in April to discuss how we want to
6 handle things like bicycles, pedestrians, what kind of safety targets that we
7 want to set. The MPO then has the option of either setting their own or
8 using the state's. So there's a lot of discussion yet to happen about that. I
9 imagine a lot of the bike/ped. targets that you'll see will be through the
10 safety performance measures.
11
12 Pearson: So maybe by the fall we should be talking about this again at this
13 committee?
14
15 Herrera: Actually probably earlier than that. So after the training in April for the
16 MPOs I assume that we'll probably have some discussion about that. I
17 don't want to speak for Tom, but ...
18
19 Pearson: But as far as this Committee maybe it should be a discussion item in that
20 timeframe?
21
22 Herrera: Yeah, probably at some point because like I said I mean we have to have
23 our target set by August, so.
24
25 Pearson: Okay.
26
27 Murphy: And Mr. Chair just to add that once the targets are set by DOT August, the
28 MPO then has through February to decide whether on our own targets or
29 whether we're going to go with what the state has developed. So I
30 imagine we will be having a lot of discussion once the state announces
31 what their targets are and of course we will be working with them prior to
32 those being established.
33
34 Pearson: Okay.
35
36 Murphy: And we're not going to let you guys off the hook. You're definitely going to
37 get input on this.
38
39 Pearson: Okay. Previous years we kind of talked about Committee goals and last
40 year we kind of were working on the trail system. I don't know if we've
41 come to completion of that or if the trail system is still something we
42 should be working towards. It's been probably quite some time since
43 we've looked at the inroad bicycle facilities. I don't know if that's
44 something that we should be looking at again. So I guess I'm just opening
45 this up to general discussion for any Committee Members as to what our
46 goals should be for the next year and also staff input.

1
2 Curry: Mr. Chair. I just had a question for Mr. Murphy. What's the timeframe on
3 the active transportation plan consultants? When do we expect that we'll
4 get news back from them? Is that a long-term project?
5
6 Murphy: Mr. Chair, Ms. Curry. I can't give a precise timeline. I know that they
7 expect to have it released for bid this fiscal year and I imagine that any
8 kind of calendar where it's going to overlap into next fiscal year but I would
9 hope that it's done prior to the calendar year being completed.
10
11 Curry: Okay. Thank you. So that said maybe, I was going to say maybe we wait
12 for their feedback but maybe that's the 2018 goal that ties into that
13 feedback.
14
15 Pearson: Okay.
16
17 Herrera: Mr. Chair.
18
19 Pearson: Yes.
20
21 Herrera: I think it should be pointed out that the active transportation plan I think it'll
22 be a really good plan but it's only for the City and so it doesn't include the
23 County, or anything outside the City which doesn't really work for us I think
24 because we're not focused specifically just on the City. So and I kind of
25 feel like we should move forward with setting goals regardless of what
26 they're kind of doing. And I like your idea about looking at inroad facilities
27 because I kind of feel like we did the trails thing already and that we're
28 pretty okay with that for now.
29
30 Pearson: We haven't really looked at the County part of it either very closely.
31
32 Herrera: Well that's true. Yeah.
33
34 Pearson: And the County's done a fair amount of work I believe since we last visited
35 the trails, the inroad facilities. Okay.
36
37 Bencomo: Mr. Chair. Yeah I agree with Ms. Herrera that we have been very, in a
38 way I put it, we've been very Cruces-centric. We haven't looked at the
39 whole MPO area and yes the active transportation plan, that part of it's
40 going to be just for the City, but I think we can take a lot of lessons from
41 that and apply those in the County also, a lot of the ideas and the thoughts
42 and things like that.
43 Also talking about inroad facilities and trails, the bicycle friendly
44 task force that's in place, we've been working on some metrics, some
45 things to look at as far as the planning engineering group and I think we
46 have some things that we would like to see the City pursue as far as

1 changing their design standards to favor bicycling a little bit more,
2 pedestrians a little bit more. Also the inroad facilities, even changing the
3 way that they're striped and things like that, a little more safety measures
4 with what's currently there that could be fairly low cost in terms of not
5 having to rebuild a lot of things. So I think that bicycle friendly task force
6 and what we're doing here and the active transportation plan, I think
7 they're all kind of happening and kind of going to converge somewhere
8 down the road, so I think it's a really good discussion to have. But I think
9 because this group and the MPO itself is a bigger view than just the City,
10 we do need to have those and then kind of maybe use the City's active
11 transportation as a model and spread out from there. But yeah we do
12 need to sit down and I think have some metrics, maybe not metrics but
13 some targets cause I think the metrics are here and then the target of how
14 you're going to meet those metrics are what we're looking at. And lay
15 those out so we have a more clear direction because we've talked about
16 trails but really haven't gotten super concrete into what our goals are or
17 what our targets are and the same thing with bicycle lanes and things like
18 that. So we do need to do that. And I would suggest we do it perhaps
19 another work session as we called the one where we did the trails. This
20 meeting to me is more of a business meeting and I think we need to just
21 have more of a discussion type meeting where we can actually do some
22 work on those ideas. Thank you.

23
24 Pearson: Okay.

25
26 Paz: Mr. Chair. I'd like to ask something if I can. One of the goals I think we
27 should have is to encourage more public participation. We have public
28 meetings and we have zero input. And then the other concern I think we
29 can do is actually move some of these meetings into more not necessarily
30 the City or the County, not necessarily the City but more in neighborhoods
31 that are adjacent to both the City and the County, so right on the border. I
32 feel like those communities don't know about this Committee, this group,
33 don't really have an audience or a voice. So I think that's a really big
34 concern of mine is we have zero public participation and you know there's
35 a few things we could do to kind of address that but I think overall that's a
36 big concern that I have for this next year.

37
38 Pearson: Okay well that kind of can lead me to the next thing that I can talk about is
39 Develop Cruces and Southern New Mexico Trail Alliance are sponsoring a
40 hiker/biker, biker/hiker meet and greet on February 9th, 7-9:00 p.m. at the
41 Spotted Dog. So it's a way that the two communities can come together in
42 an informal place and share ideas without having any particular agenda,
43 and maybe we can hear some ideas from the public that we can bring or
44 maybe we can recruit some members of the public to come to our
45 meetings. So that's February 9th, 7-9:00 and we're hoping this will be

1 recurring every quarter. So on the second Thursday of every three
2 months.

3 Okay, that's all I have. I'm going to impose on Ashleigh to tell us
4 about training she did with RoadRUNNER Transit.

5
6 Curry: Sure. Thank you Mr. Chair. This past Thursday we worked with
7 RoadRUNNER Transit, the City bus drivers and we did three separate
8 trainings, Tammy Shearer and Maurice Williams who's from Albuquerque,
9 he works for UNM with some funding from NMDOT for public safety for
10 pedestrian and bike safety. So the three of us put together a training and
11 we did three sessions, we had I think 29 participants total. And so we
12 taught them how to drive their buses around cyclists and pedestrians.
13 And I think it went over very well. The feedback was good. They actually
14 want more training. We offered them a training where they could ride
15 bicycles and we could drive the buses around them. No, I'm kidding on
16 that. But we did offer a training where they could be on bicycles and their
17 drivers could be in buses and we would let them experience what it feels
18 like from a cyclists perspective and they actually asked for that and we
19 said we would be happy to do it. So at some point in time we may
20 advance to the next level. This kind of piggybacks on the training that
21 we've done for the school bus drivers. So now anybody driving a bus in
22 Las Cruces theoretically should be trained how to drive around cyclists.

23
24 Pearson: Thank you. Any other committee members have any comments they'd
25 like?

26
27 Bencomo: Mr. Chair. Dan Carter from Southern New Mexico Trail Lines had
28 mentioned perhaps wanting to do a presentation at one of our meetings
29 on the, they call it the monumental loop. And it covers the entire Organ
30 Mountains Desert Peaks National Monument. They have a, it's about a
31 300 mile loop that they ride. It's some single-track trails, some dirt roads,
32 different types of rides. But he just wanted to come and talk to this group
33 just to inform us of what they have put together so what I wanted to do
34 was find out if we could actually do that and then also if that would be the
35 pleasure of this group to have that happen perhaps at the next meeting
36 so.

37
38 Leisher: Yeah, I think that's a great idea.

39
40 Pearson: So ask Dan to contact staff and staff can expect some e-mail from Dan I
41 guess.

42
43 Bencomo: Okay.

44
45 McAdams: We can coordinate that.

46

1 Bencomo: All right. I'll have him contact you. Thank you.
2
3 Pearson: Anybody else? Seeing no more on the committee, we'll go to the next
4 agenda item which is public comment. Anybody from the public?
5
6 Curry: Actually I'm sorry Mr. Chair may I back up. I would like to support Samuel
7 Paz in his goal to encourage more public input and change the location. I
8 think you know we heard it but can we talk about it a little bit more. Is this
9 a set venue that it needs to be here every month or is it possible to have a
10 rotating location for each of our BPAC meetings?
11
12 Pearson: Well the other two Committees, well I don't know about the TAC. Does
13 the TAC always meet at the City?
14
15 McAdams: Yes, both Committees meet here at the DAC. You're the only one that
16 stays at the DAC all the time.
17
18 Pearson: And the reason for that is because our meeting conflicts with a meeting
19 that's held at City ...
20
21 McAdams: Yes, but also the reason why we do at a venue is because we have a
22 recording equipment, it's very important to have correct recording
23 equipment and also because it's a (*inaudible*) facility, it's easy to book too,
24 but I think most important is that we can get correct recording. I
25 remember one time we were at the table and we had really bad recording.
26 So if we do change venues we have to have a place that's public
27 accessible which is it, and be able to record well and professionally.
28
29 Curry: So Mr. McAdams does that mean that another location would be the City
30 Hall that we could do it in City Chambers? No.
31
32 McAdams: I think there's a conflict at this time. That's why we're here.
33
34 Pearson: Right.
35
36 Curry: Okay so this is our only option. I just wanted to clarify that.
37
38 McAdams: I think this is our only option if we want to have good recording. And
39 remember also this is for public record too as well, so it needs to be sort
40 of, I think it needs to have a formal setting to as well which the County
41 building does. I think it could be (*inaudible*) to other informal type of
42 participation but I think that this meeting, is my opinion that should be at a
43 place a government facility because of the gravity of the minutes cause it
44 is official record and also the importance of the recording equipment.
45
46 Curry: Thank you Mr. Chair.

1
2 Pearson: I think we are successful with our work session at a different location, so
3 maybe if we talk about inroad facilities that are more County-centric we
4 might we worthwhile to have a work session some place that maybe the
5 County has a community center or something.
6
7 Paz: I was also going to mention NMSU could be a facility. They have a
8 student population that rides and walks to school, the Town of Mesilla.
9 The County has a few locations that might be able to handle a public
10 meeting. I think one of the concerns is this meeting's on the edge of town,
11 it's also a ghost town after five. That's just an honest evaluation. When
12 you come here you see three cars and a dark building. It's not really
13 public friendly or inviting, so we can also look at an earlier time or
14 something that's more midday but we have a public meeting that's not
15 really accessible and that's a big concern of mine.
16
17 Bencomo: So understanding your concerns about the availability of recording and the
18 public meetings and all those other things, trying to find a balance there.
19
20 McAdams: Right.
21
22 Bencomo: If we do, cause the work session that we did on the trails we had more
23 public participation at that one. A lot of it was because we specifically
24 knew people and invited them but we can kind of do the same thing.
25 Perhaps if we do it in a more rural area in a County area, we have
26 connections there through Carrie Bachman with (*inaudible*) Communities
27 United who has connections and can inform people about it, can't force
28 them to come but we can inform people. So would a work session work
29 for all of you, work session type of setting, would that work for the staff
30 and also for the Committee members here and maybe we can do it that
31 way to get the input and then maybe not necessarily in this type of setting
32 but that way.
33
34 Pearson: I think these meetings have already been set for the year and they're set
35 by the Policy Committee so that's a, if some special circumstances came
36 up I think we could arrange something to change but it would have to,
37 we've got all the Opening Meeting Act to deal with also.
38
39 McAdams: And the work sessions also, we have to have open meeting as well.
40
41 Pearson: That's just a matter of publishing ...
42
43 McAdams: It's also a matter of publishing the minutes too as well in which we've kind
44 of, we should of done better though the discussion we had, so I think that
45 we have another open meeting, discussion like a work session, they have
46 to be also you know really careful about some of the stuff too, open to the

1 public but also that we have good minutes as well, these procedures. And
2 that may entail actually recording those sessions too as well.
3
4 Bencomo: Yeah Mr. Chair we're going to have to figure out a way to do this because
5 the way a work session typically works it's not that, I'm sorry to say but
6 (*inaudible*) like the City does work sessions but they're not very public
7 input friendly. You are kind of out there and they're still up here on the
8 dais and they're still kind of talking to each other and the public's over
9 there. And I was thinking we're looking at more of the discussion, more of
10 the give us ...
11
12 Pearson: Well the City Council work sessions are designed for City Council so that's
13 different. It's up to the Mayor to decide if public gets to ... but if we want to
14 design a work session that invites the public we're essentially having a
15 public hearing and asking for the public to come, I think that's ...
16
17 Bencomo: Right I just ...
18
19 Pearson: That's all it would be.
20
21 Bencomo: Yeah, just trying to get them in a more of a discussion than a work session
22 I guess is what I'm kind of looking at so that they feel comfortable just
23 saying, "Hey I think we need to do this or whatever."
24
25 Pearson: Well we might be able to call it a public hearing instead of a work session
26 which, I don't know how the, I mean we might have to ask lawyers about
27 that now for how it works.
28
29 Herrera: Mr. Chair.
30
31 Pearson: Yes.
32
33 Herrera: Tom can we, I mean we can always ask the Policy Committee to change
34 something if we need to. I mean the meeting calendar is set but maybe if
35 we have a month where there's not a lot of action items, or there aren't
36 any action items, I mean can we ask to make it a work session or,
37 because the meeting's set as a meeting does it have to take place as a
38 meeting, do you know?
39
40 Murphy: Mr. Chair, Ms. Herrera. The Committee has a lot of latitude on there. The
41 Policy Committee sets the dates through the adoption of the calendar.
42 That essentially also sets the location although due to extenuating
43 circumstances previously that that's been allowed to change if something
44 happens to the facility and we need to meet elsewhere that that can be
45 accommodated. Additionally the agenda really is under the purview of the
46 Committee and the Chair so if you would like to make something as a

1 work session you certainly have the flexibility to do that. Additionally and
2 I'll have to double check on that, but I think you could call for additional
3 meetings which would be, you could establish as a work session or public
4 listing session, whatever.
5
6 Pearson: That's what we did with the last work session actually. Because our
7 schedule has two months on, one month off, two months on, one month
8 off.
9
10 Murphy: Right. And some of that's designed to align with the NMDOT TIP and
11 STIP amendment cycles but outside of that amendment calendar I think
12 that this Committee does have a lot of latitude and staff would be open to
13 trying different things and if it did necessitate us going to the Policy
14 Committee and asking for them to change something, that's something
15 that we would be willing to do as well, so definitely have this discussion
16 and see where you'd like to have this committee go.
17
18 Pearson: Well it sounds like something we want to pursue as we work on the future
19 projects, especially the inroad facility review.
20
21 Bencomo: Yeah I think if we're going to work on these future projects and things like
22 that, that public input is important ahead of time, otherwise it's just our
23 ideas and then we go, "Hey this is what we're proposing." And it's kind of
24 like well you've already decided so we need to talk to them ahead of time
25 if we can get them to come.
26
27 Pearson: So come to the Spotted Dog on February 9th in the meantime and ...
28
29 Bencomo: George is buying.
30
31 Leisher: Jumping balloons outside the building.
32
33 Bencomo: Yeah so do we want to, I mean so we don't leave this meeting just with
34 this little ending right here, do we want to try to some way, shape, or form
35 figure out when we're going to have this public input meeting or whatever
36 we want to call it?
37
38 Pearson: Well we haven't put the review of the inroad bike facilities on our agenda
39 yet so why don't we do that for our next meeting and then have that
40 discussion at that point as to what that review should entail, which might
41 be, we might end up having a public meeting in March then, or a work
42 session in March. We'll see how it goes from there.
43
44 Herrera: I think that's a good idea Mr. Chair and then we can maybe just look at the
45 calendar at that point too after we've decided which direction we want to

1 go with the discussion on the inroad facilities or if we want to extend that
2 and keep looking at trails.

3
4 Pearson: Good.

5
6 Herrera: Then we can look at the calendar and really kind of figure out when to do
7 some of that stuff.

8
9 Bencomo: Okay.

10
11 Pearson: Okay I think that pretty much covers that.

12
13 **8. PUBLIC COMMENT**

14
15 Pearson: So our next item is public comment. Anybody from the public? Hearing
16 none.

17
18 **9. ADJOURNMENT (5:57 p.m.)**

19
20 Pearson: Item eight (*nine*) is adjournment. Hear a motion to adjourn.

21
22 Bencomo: So moved.

23
24 Curry: Second.

25
26 Pearson: All in favor "aye."

27
28 MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY.

29
30 Pearson: We're adjourned.

31
32
33
34
35
36 _____
37 Chairperson
38