



METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

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MESILLA VALLEY METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

POLICY COMMITTEE

AMENDED AGENDA

The following is the Agenda for a meeting of the Policy Committee of the Mesilla Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization (MVMPO) to be held **August 9, 2017 at 1:00 p.m.** in the in the **City of Las Cruces Council Chambers**, 700 North Main, Las Cruces, New Mexico. Meeting packets are available on the [Mesilla Valley MPO website](http://MesillaValleyMPO.org).

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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** _____
5.1. *June 14, 2017 _____ **Chair**
6. **ACTION ITEMS** _____
6.1. Resolution 17-08: A Resolution Amending the 2018-2023 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) _____ **MPO Staff**
7. **DISCUSSION ITEMS** _____
7.1. NMDOT Rail Plan _____ **NMDOT Transit and Rail Staff**
7.2. SCRTD Rail Study _____ **SCRTD Staff**
7.3. BPAC recommendation on design standards _____ **MPO Staff**
7.4. Public Transportation in MVMPO _____ **MPO Staff**
7.5. NMDOT update _____ **NMDOT Staff**
8. **COMMITTEE and STAFF COMMENTS** _____ **Chair**
9. **PUBLIC COMMENT** _____ **Chair**
10. **ADJOURNMENT** _____ **Chair**

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

3
4 The following are minutes for the meeting of the Mesilla Valley Metropolitan Planning
5 Organization (MPO) Policy Committee which was held June 14, 2017 at 1:00 p.m. in
6 Commission Chambers at Dona Ana County Government Building, 845 Motel Blvd., Las
7 Cruces, New Mexico.

8
9 **MEMBERS PRESENT:** Mayor Nora Barraza (Town of Mesilla)
10 Trent Doolittle (NMDOT)
11 Councillor Jack Eakman (CLC)
12 Trustee Linda Flores (Town of Mesilla)
13 Councillor Olga Pedroza (CLC)
14 Commissioner Benjamin Rawson (DAC)
15 Commissioner Isabella Solis (DAC)
16 Councillor Gill Sorg (CLC)

17
18 **MEMBERS ABSENT:** Commissioner John Vasquez (DAC)

19
20 **STAFF PRESENT:** Andrew Wray (MPO staff)
21 Michael McAdams (MPO staff)
22 Dominic Loya (MPO Staff)

23
24 **OTHERS PRESENT:** Becky Baum, RC Creations, LLC, Recording Secretary
25 David Armijo, SCRTD

26
27 **1. CALL TO ORDER / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE (1:00 PM)**

28
29 Flores: Okay so it's 1:00 and it looks like we have a quorum so I'm going to call
30 the meeting to order and we'll start with the Pledge of Allegiance.

31
32 **2. CONFLICT OF INTEREST INQUIRY**

33
34 Flores: Okay so we'll start off with the conflict of interest inquiry. Does any
35 Member have any known or perceived conflict of interest with any item on
36 the agenda? If so that Committee Member may recuse themselves from
37 voting on a specific matter or if they feel that they can be impartial we will
38 put their participation up to a vote by the rest of the Committee.

39
40 Pedroza: No conflict.

41
42 Flores: Okay. Seeing none.

1 **3. PUBLIC COMMENT**

2
3 Flores: We'll move on to public comment. Is there anyone in the public that would
4 like to make a comment at this time? No? Okay.

5
6 **4. CONSENT AGENDA ***

7
8 Flores: So then we'll move on to the consent agenda. Do I hear a motion to pass
9 the consent agenda?

10
11 Eakman: I would move approval.

12
13 Flores: Move to approve.

14
15 Sorg: Second.

16
17 Flores: Wait, who seconded? Who moved then? I'm sorry.

18
19 Sorg: Second.

20
21 Flores: I'm, then, was that, okay. So that was Councillor Eakman and was the,
22 moved and the second was Councillor Sorg. Okay shall we vote on this?

23
24 Wray: Commissioner Rawson.

25
26 Rawson: Yes.

27
28 Wray: Councillor Pedroza.

29
30 Pedroza: Yes.

31
32 Wray: Mr. Doolittle.

33
34 Doolittle: Yes.

35
36 Wray: Councillor Sorg.

37
38 Sorg: Yes.

39
40 Wray: Commissioner Solis.

41
42 Solis: Yes.

43
44 Wray: Councillor Eakman.

45
46 Eakman: Yes.

1
2 Wray: Madam Chair.

3
4 Flores: I'm going to abstain since I wasn't here.

5
6 MOTION PASSES.

7
8 Flores: So it looks like that was approved.

9
10 **5. * APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

11
12 **5.1 * May 10, 2017**

13
14 - VOTED ON VIA THE CONSENT AGENDA

15
16 **6. ACTION ITEMS**

17
18 **6.1 Resolution 17-07: A Resolution Amending the 2016-2021**
19 **Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)**

20
21 Flores: And then we'll move on to action items, 6.1: Resolution 17-07: A
22 Resolution Adopting the 2018-2023 Transportation Improvement Program
23 (TIP).

24
25 Wray: Thank you Madam Chair. I would like to direct the attention of the
26 Committee to page 22 of the packet where Exhibit A for this resolution
27 begins. That's where the actual TIP information is contained. I'll allow the
28 Committee to continue to review that.

29 Just a brief background, again the Transportation Improvement
30 Program is the short-range fiscally-constrained list of projects within the
31 MPO area. Federal law requires that the TIP cover four years of future
32 funding. The State of New Mexico requires an additional two out-years,
33 which is why that you'll see on your TIP document a total of six years
34 listed in the TIP. The MPO is required to publicize a call for projects every
35 two years although projects can be suggested by individuals or
36 jurisdictions throughout, anytime during the course of the TIP. For the
37 Federal Fiscal Year 2018-2023 TIP, which is the TIP that is before you
38 today, MPO staff began the call for projects on October 14th of last year.
39 The deadline for that call was December 16, 2016. Subsequently the
40 MPO did an additional call for projects commencing on January 12th and
41 then concluding on February 24th. After the deadline the MPO staff
42 worked in coordination with NMDOT to identify funding sources. I do want
43 to mention at this time that subsequent to the second closing of the open
44 call for projects, the New Mexico Department of Transportation awarded
45 the Town of Mesilla and Las Cruces Public Schools transportation
46 alternatives program funding. These projects have been added to the

1 draft that is before you today. Those projects are the Safe Routes to
2 School Coordinator position and the trail along Calle del Norte in Town of
3 Mesilla.

4 Public comment for this TIP commenced at the May 4th meeting of
5 the TAC which gave us the full 30 days, actually a little bit over at this
6 point required by the Public Participation Plan. The Bicycle and
7 Pedestrian Facilities Advisory Committee recommended approval of this
8 TIP to the Policy Committee at their May 16th meeting and the Technical
9 Advisory Committee recommended approval to the Policy Committee at
10 their June 1st meeting. And so MPO staff requests that the Policy
11 Committee approve this TIP at this meeting.
12

13 Flores: Okay.

14
15 Eakman: Madam Chair.

16
17 Flores: So do we have a ...

18
19 Eakman: I have a question.

20
21 Flores: Councillor Eakman.

22
23 Eakman: Referring to record number 9 on page 26, the one you just commented on,
24 Andrew.

25
26 Wray: Yes sir.

27
28 Eakman: Is this 100% salary for a position or positions?

29
30 Wray: Madam Chair, Councillor Eakman. It is not 100% salary. It is salary for
31 the Coordinator position and also additional funding to support various
32 programmatic activities carried out by the position. I don't have to hand a
33 particular breakdown. I would have to direct anyone who's interested in
34 the direction of speaking to the actual Coordinator herself, her name is
35 Ms. Ashleigh Curry, for the specific breakdown of how the funding is
36 utilized.
37

38 Eakman: I appreciate that answer. We've had reports from that individual at City
39 Council. I was not aware that this was a salaried position. Thank you.
40

41 Wray: And there is one other thing that I should've mentioned in my previous
42 comment. The full \$92,000 that was done in one year as one lump sum
43 by NMDOT for their own record-keeping purposes. The intent of this is
44 that it's going to be broken in half and half of it spent in 2018 and then the
45 other half spent in 2019 so that the program will be covered for the first
46 two fiscal years of this TIP, at which point because of the way the TAP

1 funding works it's only a two-year grant so in order for the program to
2 continue to be funded from TAP funding in Fiscal Year '19 Las Cruces
3 Public Schools will need to reapply for the money.
4
5 Eakman: Thank you.
6
7 Flores: Okay. Do we have any other questions?
8
9 Sorg: Yes.
10
11 Flores: Just before Mr. Sorg goes, I would like to just say that Mayor Barraza has
12 entered the room. Welcome. And go ahead Councillor Sorg.
13
14 Sorg: Thank you Madam Chair. I have multiple questions on these TIPs. Let's
15 begin at the beginning. Number uno, one: Various City of Las Cruces
16 streets. Explain.
17
18 Wray: Madam Chair, Councillor Sorg. I do not have a list. In fact I have never
19 seen a list of the specific railroad crossings. I presume that the intention is
20 to do safety upgrades to all of them that are within the City of Las Cruces
21 but I have never actually seen a list. This is just the funding request that
22 was given to me by the New Mexico Department of Transportation. I don't
23 know whether Mr. Doolittle might have a further insight as to that but I do
24 not know which specific streets are being examined for this project.
25
26 Sorg: Okay. Mr. Doolittle.
27
28 Doolittle: Councillor Sorg. This is a program that's managed out of the General
29 Office, out of the Transit Bureau, or the Transit and Rail Bureau. I don't
30 have that information but I'll certainly get that and then I'll forward it over to
31 Andrew for distribution to the Board.
32
33 Sorg: Yeah. I don't think you can answer my real question here, is "How do you
34 choose?" Unless you know what the requirements or things that you need
35 to have to replace a railroad crossing, do you know that off the top of your
36 head?
37
38 Doolittle: My experience has been that either the entities have requested
39 improvements, so for instance Hatch recently requested some
40 improvements to a railroad crossing within their limits. We've also had
41 locations where the railroad themselves have noticed necessary
42 improvements and they've applied for the funding through the Transit and
43 Rail Bureau.
44
45 Sorg: Okay.
46

1 Doolittle: Other than that those are my only two experiences.
2
3 Sorg: Well I'm wondering if we could have some kind of relief for a bike and
4 walking trail that crosses the railroad tracks, if that could be added to the
5 list of various City of Las Cruces streets, have the bike trail that is the
6 outfall channel added to that. If it hasn't been done before, a study to
7 determine what kind if any possible bridges across there, or crossings I
8 should say of the railroad tracks on that trail. Secondly, is the US-70 Elks
9 to Del Rey, number three I think it is, it says "bridge and pavement
10 preservation and ADA improvement." I don't understand this. This is a
11 brand-new street, it's a brand-new bridge. What are we doing there?
12
13 Wray: Madam Chair, Councillor Sorg. I believe this is not the bridge itself. I
14 believe this is the stretch of roadway between Elks and the beginning
15 point of the bridge, but again Mr. Doolittle would be able to provide further
16 information. He's nodding his head "yes."
17
18 Sorg: Okay. Thank you.
19
20 Doolittle: Yes, Councillor Sorg. Andrew's right. This is a pavement preservation
21 between Elks and the interchange itself. We also do routine maintenance
22 on those structures so we'll do an epoxy overlay to reseal the bridges to
23 keep moisture from getting into the bridge decking themselves. So the
24 bridge preservation that you're seeing on here is just our routine
25 maintenance program. We're doing it at the same time as we're doing the
26 pavement preservation because our hopes are while we're doing the
27 repaving of the ramps they will be closed so that will allow the bridge
28 repairs to take place at the same time that those ramps are being worked
29 on.
30
31 Sorg: What ramps?
32
33 Doolittle: All of the ramps at the I-25/US-70 interchange.
34
35 Sorg: Oh, okay. All the way in the MPO area. All right.
36
37 Doolittle: This project is basically going to the Del Rey intersection but it won't
38 include, those limits are incorporated so that we could do the repair work
39 on the ramps themselves.
40
41 Sorg: Well I don't know if anybody in this room has traveled on that underpass
42 from Elks to Del Rey. I've done it many times. I couldn't help but notice
43 that something happened to the pavement shortly after it was done, it's a
44 very new street, that made it extremely rough. And yet under the bridge
45 there was no damage to the roadway there. Could I have an explanation

1 of what happened to that part of that street that made it rough? Do you
2 know?
3
4 Doolittle: The frontage road system or Del Rey itself?
5
6 Sorg: Engler. Engler, as it goes from Elks to Del Rey, as you approach the
7 underpass it's really rough and under the underpass it's like new, and then
8 you get on the other side of the underpass it's rough again. It's as if the
9 weather or sun or something made the pavement deteriorate, I don't know
10 how to describe it but it's just extremely rough. It's not like the rest of the
11 street underneath the underpass. Do you know that? Have you seen
12 that, experienced it? And if that can't be answered that's okay. I also
13 wanted to mention the fact that I just heard from our Public Works
14 Department that the Public Works Department is going to repave that, or
15 not repave it but put a new surface on that street. So are we doing this
16 twice or is this the same project?
17
18 Doolittle: Engler is separate from this one. This one is US-70 basically from Elks to
19 the Del Rey intersection. Engler ...
20
21 Sorg: Okay. Engler is separate.
22
23 Doolittle: Is further north and that's a, that is a City roadway.
24
25 Sorg: Yeah, okay. Thank you. But you don't know what happened because I
26 know the DOT did put down the street in the first place. You don't know.
27
28 Doolittle: That's correct. We did the initial construction but honestly I haven't been
29 out there ...
30
31 Sorg: Okay.
32
33 Doolittle: To monitor the condition.
34
35 Sorg: All right. That's fine. So it's going to have pavement replacement. The
36 reason I saw Elks to Del Rey, it doesn't seem to describe it right there,
37 because Elks is on the west side of I-25, Del Rey's on the east side.
38
39 Doolittle: And that's correct. It's just that, basically that small section of pavement
40 from the intersection at Elks to the off-ramp at Del Rey, to include all of the
41 pavement and bridges at the I-25 ...
42
43 Sorg: Okay.
44
45 Doolittle: US-70 ...
46

1 Sorg: Okay.
2
3 Doolittle: Interchange.
4
5 Sorg: I understand. Thank you. That makes sense. Now on the Roadrunner,
6 there's several pieces here, several ones here and I understand No. 4 is
7 transit operations, that's clear. But the next two, 5 and 6 show capital
8 equipment and rolling stock. Could you describe that capital equipment?
9 What is that?
10
11 Wray: Madam Chair, Councillor Sorg. Capital equipment is things like buildings,
12 structures that are going to have a longer-standing duration. The revenue
13 rolling stock is the buses themselves.
14
15 Sorg: Buses, yeah. Okay.
16
17 Wray: So that's the difference.
18
19 Sorg: You know what the project is for the capital equipment?
20
21 Wray: I do not know what Mr. Bartholomew's intentions are.
22
23 Sorg: Okay. Do you know what buses are going to be bought with these two,
24 rolling stock and number eight, two different rolling stock?
25
26 Wray: The difference between the two different rolling stocks is that in the most
27 recent federal transportation bill the funding category of, let's see here,
28 5339 and what is the other funding category, actually don't have it listed
29 here unfortunately it does not, oh, there it is, 5307. The match amounts
30 were changed by the federal government and the reason why it's now split
31 out within our database is due to the quirks of the database itself. I'm
32 unable to successfully export files out of Access and up to the New
33 Mexico Department of Transportation STIP office in Santa Fe if within one
34 project there are multiple match amounts. The export does not work
35 properly. It creates errors and can't be accepted, so that's the reason why
36 we now have two revenue rolling stock, because one of them is 5339 and
37 the other one is 5307 and they have different match amounts and they
38 can't be together anymore.
39
40 Sorg: I see. They're to buy two different buses maybe, or ...
41
42 Wray: Well, presumably. I don't know what specific equipment Mr.
43 Bartholomew's thinking of replacing but ...
44
45 Sorg: Okay. I ...
46

1 Wray: That's the reason why they're split now.
2
3 Sorg: I requested with him a long time ago, or not so long ago maybe that our
4 next purchase of a bus would be the electric bus. And I was just
5 wondering if one of these is that. You don't know though.
6
7 Wray: Madam Chair, Councillor Sorg. Mr. Murphy before he left on vacation
8 signed a letter of support to the Federal Transit Administration regarding
9 securing funding to purchase an electric bus. So my saying that does not
10 in any means ...
11
12 Sorg: Yeah.
13
14 Wray: Imply that it's a done deal but I know for a fact that Mr. Bartholomew is
15 working in that direction.
16
17 Sorg: Okay. I got in this too late for this TIP but I would like to put in a request
18 for TIPs in the next TIP, and that is that we explore the possibilities of
19 extending Engler Drive down to Valley Drive. That's part of our MPO
20 Master Plan or long-range plan.
21
22 Wray: The MTP, yes.
23
24 Sorg: Yes. I think that's going to be important when it comes to the future. I
25 know it's going to take a lot, many years to get that completed because
26 there's a lot of right-of-way to be obtained. And so it's going to be, I just
27 think we need to start looking at that as a project that needs to be done in
28 the future when we can do it. Thank you Madam Chair.
29
30 Wray: Councillor Sorg. The MTP public involvement process is going to begin
31 next year so I'll make a note of that and we will make sure that that project
32 becomes a part of the MTP process discussion when it begins.
33
34 Sorg: Thank you very much Andrew. Thank you Madam Chair.
35
36 Flores: Anyone else? Mayor Barraza.
37
38 Barraza: Thank you Madam Chair. I just would like to ask Andrew if on the TIP, the
39 projects that are listed in this TIP for the resolution for our approval,
40 normally do you, I mean are requests sent to your office and then you all
41 prioritize and then bring it to the MPO? How exactly does that work?
42
43 Wray: Madam Chair, Mayor Barraza. There isn't really a prioritization process
44 that takes place any longer. I know historically, and this is going back a
45 ways, we did used to do one but the fact of the matter is that there really is
46 not nearly as much federal money available, up for grabs as it were as

1 there used to be. So effectively what has happened is that the projects
2 that get in the TIP are the ones that guaranteed the funding. There's not
3 really so much of a prioritization process that goes on. If a project has the
4 funding behind it, then it goes onto the TIP. Now if a jurisdiction or an
5 individual happens to come to us with a project then we will obviously
6 work with them to determine if funding is secured and available etc. etc.
7 before we would bring such a project through the advisory committees and
8 ultimately to the Policy Committee for approval. So there is definitely a
9 vetting process that happens but at this stage of how federal dollars work I
10 wouldn't describe it as a prioritization process any longer.

11
12 Barraza: Okay. Thank you. So to follow up on that question, Madam Chair if I may
13 ask Mr. Armijo who is the Director of the SCRTD if the RTD applied for
14 any of this TIP funding?

15
16 Armijo: Actually the answer's no. This TIP funding within the urbanized area
17 would not qualify us for it. We're in the rural area so we're kind of outside
18 of that, so we're utilizing 5311 which is rural funds. These are urbanized
19 funds that we're talking about here today.

20 I also want to make comment on the issue of funding. One of the
21 reasons funding is so tight for bus capital is about three years ago the
22 Congress withdrew all bus capital funding for most of these categories and
23 so that's limited the number of dollars. So now what's happening is the
24 funds that normally you would get for the urbanized area which is the
25 5307, that's based on your population, just real simple numbers and your
26 ridership, and that's what you have for the service area. So the 5307 is
27 identified for the urbanized area, and so now what's happening without
28 those bus capital funds it's making the localized area have less funds
29 available. And just so you'll know the reason for that was for the New
30 Starts, which is the big urban projects that New York and Chicago and
31 Denver and so on are getting are now sucking away all the money out of
32 the states that depend more on 5307 or now 5311. So that's a political
33 game that someday we might want to talk to our Congressman Pearce
34 and see if he wants to take that project on. But I've been on a number of
35 committees nationally, we've been trying to get that money back, so.

36
37 Barraza: Okay.

38
39 Armijo: Unfortunately you're limited to your 5339 and some years there's no
40 money in that so this year I think there is some.

41
42 Barraza: Okay. Very good.

43
44 Armijo: Thank you.

1 Barraza: Thank you Mr. Armijo. And one more question Madam Chair to Andrew is
2 were all the requests that were submitted, are they on this TIP or are there
3 some projects that are not?
4

5 Wray: Madam Chair, Mayor Barraza. All of the projects that were finally
6 submitted are on this TIP. Now I say finally submitted for a reason. There
7 were two projects that were in the development stage that ultimately, and I
8 in this capacity here I can't speculate as to why, but were withdrawn by the
9 applying jurisdiction. There were two projects specifically. So all the ones
10 that were submitted to the MPO in the end, by the deadline were included.
11

12 Barraza: Okay. Very good. And my last comment Madam Chair is I thank you for
13 putting our multi-bike/pedestrian trail on this resolution for TIP and I just
14 would like to ask all the Members of the Board for their support also on
15 that project. So thank you. Thank you Madam Chair.
16

17 Flores: Anyone else? No? Seeing none, are we ready to put this for a vote then?
18

19 Eakman: Madam Chair. I would move approval of this TIP.
20

21 Flores: Okay.
22

23 Barraza: Madam Chair. I second.
24

25 Flores: Okay. All right. We can have the vote.
26

27 Wray: Commissioner Rawson.
28

29 Rawson: Yes.
30

31 Wray: Councillor Pedroza.
32

33 Pedroza: Yes.
34

35 Wray: Mr. Doolittle.
36

37 Doolittle: Yes.
38

39 Wray: Councillor Sorg.
40

41 Sorg: Yes.
42

43 Wray: Commissioner Solis.
44

45 Solis: Yes.
46

1 Wray: Councillor Eakman.

2
3 Eakman: Yes.

4
5 Wray: Mayor Barraza.

6
7 Barraza: Yes.

8
9 Wray: Madam Chair.

10
11 Flores: Yes.

12
13 MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY.

14
15 Flores: Okay. So it looks like that was unanimous.

16
17 **7. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

18
19 **7.1 Committee Training: Pubic Transportation in MVMPO**

20
21 Flores: And now we'll move to discussion items, 7.1: Committee Training: Public
22 Transportation in the Mesilla Valley MPO.

23
24 Wray: Thank you Madam Chair. At this time I would like to introduce Mr. Michael
25 McAdams who will be giving this training.

26
27 McAdams: Good afternoon Members of the Policy Committee and Madam Chairman.
28 It is my pleasure to be talking about public transportation. Many of you
29 already know me at various meetings and I liaison between the MPO and
30 various groups like Ocotillo and the Transit Advisory Board and the RTD
31 meetings too. So those who don't, one of my primary purposes to liaison
32 public transportation coordination and information. If you have any
33 questions about public transit I'd be glad to answer them. If I don't know
34 the answer I'll find them from various sources. Just consider me a one-
35 stop, like information, I'd be glad to act like that. I could also contact
36 exactly the transit managers. We do have one, David Armijo's already
37 here. And he's from SCRTD. I invited others but they're busy right now
38 so you have any further questions about RTD he can answer them too.

39 So let's just go ahead and briefly, some of you know about all this
40 stuff already but I think it's a good way to sort of introduce him and for
41 some that are not as aware of public transportation I bring some details
42 and those that are, that's sort of review. And I think this is the first time
43 we've ever had a presentation like this. We can talk about all the transit
44 systems together. And so if you have any questions while I go along
45 please don't hesitate to interrupt me.

1 Benefits of public transportation: Enables those who have limited
2 mobility to acquire and keep jobs. It gives greater access to shopping
3 areas, medical facilities, and educational institutions for those with mobility
4 limitations. Communities with high-quality public transportation tend to
5 drive significantly less and rely on alternative modes. It saves energy and
6 decreases vehicular pollution, and directly in economic benefits are the
7 transit employees and systems buy local goods and services.

8 The funding which you see in transit can be very complicated and
9 confusing, but not only people, for the Policy Committee but also for the
10 staff so join the club. But basically you have two types of expenses; one
11 is capital which is basically, it could also be equipment etc. and buildings,
12 but basically buses, parks, rail lines, and facilities. Operating is like
13 drivers, maintenance, administration salaries, etc., fuel. Funding sources:
14 The main funding source are from the Federal Transit Administration.
15 Now within there's two types of funding source; one is operating which is
16 50/50; 50 for the federal, 50 local. The other's capital funds which is 83
17 and it can vary for kinds of locality but ours is 83 federal and 70% local.
18 Any entity can also have more local support if they want to but it's not
19 restricted to just match. You can also have state funding thereby grabbing
20 advertising, local match, and also paying for the services, social service
21 agencies, educational institutions, and private companies. So for
22 example, DACC helps support Route 2 and they actually have their own
23 separate routes before the new routes, and also, trying to think of some
24 other things. Some directly operate through nonprofit agencies and a
25 variety of things like that. Also NMSU, the RoadRUNNER provide for free
26 transportation to NMSU students. Some RTDs actually contract for
27 Medicaid, providing social service as well.

28 Public transportation can be a public good similar to education,
29 roads, utilities, fire, and police.

30 Public transportation is an integral part of the transportation system
31 of the county, providing mobility for a diverse group of its population. And
32 here's some of the logos, but we also we know this so to identify as well,
33 and a little bit of color in the demonstration too. South Central Regional
34 Transit District, Ztrans which is also connected to SCRTD, RoadRUNNER
35 Transit, and also the New Mexico DOT Park and Ride.

36 And here is the network. You can see it's quite complex and with
37 all the routes. When you see like routes and spheres that means there
38 are two routes on the same route. So you see we have, we'll explain
39 some of these later but it's kind of an overview of the entire system serving
40 the area.

41 RoadRUNNER Transit, and we're all familiar with that hopefully,
42 serves the City of Las Cruces, Town of Mesilla, and the Las Cruces
43 urbanized area. In fact really the goal is for the RoadRUNNER to serve
44 the urbanized area. It is a division of the City of Las Cruces in the Quality
45 of Life Department. It's funded by FTA and local monies. The governing
46 body is the City of Las Cruces City Council and for your information you

1 just contact, if you need this slide you'll be glad to get, these are readily
2 available if you need further questions.

3
4 Barraza: Madam Chair can I just clarify something?

5
6 McAdams: Sure.

7
8 Barraza: Mr. McAdams. I just want to point out that the Town of Mesilla, it does
9 service the Town of Mesilla but we have an MOU with the City of Las
10 Cruces where we pay a fee for the service to come into our community.

11
12 McAdams: That's correct.

13
14 Barraza: Okay.

15
16 McAdams: And of course I knew, but I'm glad you mentioned that. Thank you. And
17 so the system, you probably, most of you are familiar with this system and
18 you see it covers almost all of the City of Las Cruces with some gaps. We
19 do a buffering but that's so simplistic, if you need further information of
20 course you can get routes, we can actually supply and you can have GIS
21 still available or .pdf or any type of actual physical maps if you need that.

22 The other component of our transportation, another is the DOT
23 Park and Ride. The DOT Park and Ride serves communities in the Las
24 Cruces area and El Paso. It has two routes, one serving Las Cruces and
25 El Paso called the Gold Route and the other serving Las Cruces and
26 White Sands Missile Range, the Silver Route. They are contracted by the
27 DOT and public charter company and the governing board is actually the
28 DOT. So there's their telephone and their web address if you need further
29 information too as well. And there's their route, you can see that it
30 connects with the El Paso system downtown and one other stop near
31 Anthony, and then goes up to Las Cruces, goes to the Move It Center and
32 also some other points where you can get off too as well including NMSU.
33 And then the other route, of course the Silver Route going up to White
34 Missile Range, primarily servicing that and not anything else.

35 Ztrans is a coordinator with South Central Regional Transit, I had a,
36 one back, SCRTD serves residents in Dona Ana County. Ztrans and the
37 other partner in this area is autonomous public transportation provider that
38 serves the Alamogordo area and has a route serving Las Cruces.

39 SCRTD has four fixed routes: The Red Route, the Blue Route, the
40 Purple Route, and the Turquoise Route. And it's funded by FTA,
41 membership dues from members of the RTD, and local jurisdictions. The
42 governing body is the SCRTD Board composed of representatives from
43 local jurisdictions. And there's their phone and the web address too.

44 Ztrans is a coordinating, in fact they come to all the RTD meetings
45 too but they're separated from RTD. It's actually Ztrans (Zia Therapy) is a
46 public transportation provider that serves the Alamogordo area and is a

1 fixed route serving Las Cruces with stops at the Move It Center and Dona
2 Ana Community College East Mesa Campus, and NMSU. It is a
3 paratransit service in the Alamogordo area but not in our service area.
4 Ztrans is funded by multiple funding sources. It's funded by the FTA and
5 local funding. SCRTD supplies the match for operating funds for the route
6 going from Alamogordo to Las Cruces. Ztrans operates under the
7 authority of Zia Therapy which is a nonprofit social service agency. This is
8 one of the services they provide. There's the contact information and Joe
9 Hardin, I hoped he would be here but he's not here, would be your contact
10 information with Zia Transit.

11 And here is the routes for both South Central RTD and Ztrans. I
12 thought it would be good to combine them because they are coordinated
13 routes and you can see that the various routes and where they go. What
14 the real success and to David's credit is that they have now connected to
15 El Paso at three different locations, Anthony, the north side and the west
16 side and those are very valuable I think.

17 The integration of the transit systems is not just accidental. It's
18 happening on purpose. Each of the systems in the counties are integrated
19 and mutually coordinated in this service area. The primary transfer point
20 for all systems is the Move It Center where passengers are able to
21 transfer from one system to another. SCRTD and NMDOT Park and Ride
22 have transfer points in the lower part of the County and El Paso County
23 that allow passengers going to and from the El Paso area to transfer
24 between the systems. Each system serves different areas with varying
25 needs. For example if you're in the lower part of Dona Ana County, your
26 needs are to get to jobs and educational institutions, perhaps in El Paso or
27 to avail yourself to medical institutions which is very important. They didn't
28 have that before. If you're in the City of Las Cruces of course your needs
29 will be different: Local jobs, medical facilities in the area. And of course
30 Ztrans is bringing a lot of people down from their area to DACC, NMSU,
31 so different needs for different areas.

32 There's a lot of stuff going on right now in transit, whether it's the
33 Active Transportation Plan which was recently approved by City Council.
34 There's a transit component there too. RoadRUNNER Stop Study with
35 focus on ADA compliance is ongoing. We did the app, I think we talked
36 about that before, we created app so we can do inventory and now
37 RoadRUNNER Transit is extending that to actually look at more ADA
38 compliance components. Monitoring RoadRUNNER stops and boarding
39 and lighting for daily operations. We're in the process of acquiring
40 software, we can better analyze ridership by stop and hopefully the goal is
41 to create a different level of higher data collection. Develop performance
42 standards for public transportation providers. We've already started that,
43 to certainly look at passengers per hour and it will become more so as the
44 FHWA and FTA ask for performance standards. Smart Fare System. I
45 had just talked a couple of days ago about this with DOT reps up in Santa
46 Fe. This'll be like a chip or something that people can transfer easily or to

1 buy fares more easily. Purchase of electric buses by RoadRUNNER
2 Transit. We know that's ongoing and I think that would be a great thing
3 but again there's complications in that funding too as well about how we're
4 going to do it. We're also looking at revision of two routes by
5 RoadRUNNER Transit which would be 8 which is basically doing very well
6 serving a lot of people, to divide that into two routes and 8 will be varied.
7 The updated five-year service plan for SCRTD which is now ongoing. The
8 commuter rail study, the El Paso/Las Cruces which is also going. These
9 are through SCRTD. And next year we'll be looking at the RoadRUNNER
10 Long-Range Transit Plan. So we're very busy. I'm very busy too. Madam
11 Chair and Committee Members, do you have any questions? I'd be glad
12 to answer them.
13
14 Flores: Let's see, oh, is that Councillor, okay.
15
16 Solis: Madam Chair. I just have a question. Is there any way we can get a copy
17 of those slides? I think you mentioned that earlier, right?
18
19 McAdams: Madam Chair. I'll be glad to do that.
20
21 Flores: Okay.
22
23 Solis: Thank you.
24
25 Flores: What about Councillor Eakman now? Did you have a question? Okay.
26
27 Eakman: Thank you Mr. McAdams. I requested this update so that I could better
28 understand the role and responsibility of this Board as it deals with these
29 transit things, and specifically I'm wondering what our authority and
30 responsibility is when it comes to transit. What say do we have, what
31 responsibility do we have? All of these things came up, it looks like staff is
32 actively working on it, but we seem to have no involvement here in policy.
33 So I'm just, I asked for this very much to know what our responsibilities are
34 so I can feel more at ease in what I'm doing up here. Thank you.
35
36 McAdams: Madam Chair, Councillor Eakman. We do, one of, there's two different
37 divisions. We're right abutting to the El Paso MPO. We don't have any
38 jurisdiction in planning. We can coordinate but we don't have any
39 authority. And that goes both ways. They can't have any authority over
40 us as well. But then transit for the Las Cruces urbanized area we can just
41 possibly identify funding like we did right now and ask questions where the
42 money's coming from. But there's a variety of ways you can do this,
43 through the TAB or directly with the City Council for RoadRUNNER. As
44 far as SCRTD, that's sort of under our jurisdiction but not really because
45 we don't control the funds. But in addition, and before you with the Short-
46 Range Transit Plan, under the authority of the Policy Committee going to

1 direct us to do plans with the amount of money, you know we've been cut
2 recently so we, but a lot of stuff we can do under the authority of your
3 authority and so if you have any plans you'd like to do we'd be more than
4 happy to do this for. So the real power of the Policy Committee is to
5 funding approval and questioning where that funding's coming from and
6 (*inaudible*) to direct staff with studies. Some of the studies we have are
7 not exclusive to the RoadRUNNER in the urbanized area but also involve
8 coordination as well because we also cover the Town of Mesilla. So any
9 kind of study we do will always be regionally-oriented. Did that answer
10 your question Madam Chair?
11

12 Eakman: It leads to more questions because it seems like we're approving funding
13 for these things without knowing what the projects are. And so that leaves
14 me at a loss, and perhaps everybody else feels very comfortable with it
15 but I'm wondering, myself.
16

17 McAdams: Madam Chair, Councillor Eakman. I can understand your confusion. The
18 situation with buses when they're bought and where they're replaced is a
19 really complicated situation. I wish Mike Bartholomew was here to explain
20 them. Yes, you can do them, a lot of what's on there's perfunctory. We
21 are not expanding as a rule, maybe one or two. Most of them are
22 replacements. Those are based on 12 years replacement value and then
23 you have replacement. But the transit funding as we know can be
24 extremely complicated and extremely bureaucratic which I don't think we
25 have any time to discuss that. Mike would be glad to discuss how that's
26 done. But yes, you do have a right to understand why buses are replaced
27 in the operating funds but Mike Bartholomew would be glad to address
28 this for the Policy Committee if you'd like to know. We can also address it
29 during the TAB Committee as well. But a lot of it's like any kind of money
30 for operating funds is like we're at the max. Actually, we don't have any
31 additional funds. It's capital funds, is basically replacement of buses
32 based on federal conditions. What the Federal Government is doing is
33 requiring that all systems have an Asset Management Report which Mike
34 Bartholomew's developing, and I think that would be a clearer picture
35 about how many buses we have, what the age of the bus is and when it
36 should be replaced, and also look at expansion too. That's being
37 mandated with the Federal Government and I also would like to see that. I
38 have a list of buses and their ages but I think probably the best as far as
39 really detailed analysis if you'd like that, Mike Bartholomew would be glad
40 to discuss and also RTD and Ztrans would be glad to discuss these. But it
41 is, it actually is confusing for staff. It's confusing sometimes for people
42 who are directly involved in funding. I'm sure those who are, that's not
43 their primary job are also confused. But just be aware it is a very detailed,
44 but it doesn't excuse any kind of, that shouldn't excuse from not saying
45 anything, all right. But I'm glad, if you'd like to discuss at a future meeting
46 Mike would be very glad to explain how that funding's derived for your

1 purposes. And I agree with you. It's not right for the Policy Committee to
2 vote on things that they have really no knowledge, and that's your role as
3 politicians and we respect that role.
4

5 Eakman: And if I might I would like to move a little further up the food chain and
6 when buses should be replaced or things of that nature, I see all the
7 routes, systems ...
8

9 McAdams: Yes sir.
10

11 Eakman: And the people movement and the needs of people to move and things
12 like that, and where is that centralized, coordinated in the decision-making
13 take place?
14

15 McAdams: It's kind of decentralized because as far as the plan for the
16 RoadRUNNER, every five years we're required to do a Transit Plan. We
17 can do sub-studies, that's a major plan to look at the bus system. We also
18 can do system revision. We're already involved right now in looking at the
19 bus system too. And under the TAB and also the City Council you can
20 direct Mike Bartholomew to do that as well. So it's very, we can do it as a
21 study for the general region but you can also request it through the City
22 Council as well as far as more specification, maybe a different planning
23 study, anything you'd like I think. It's your purview to do that.
24

25 Eakman: Thank you.
26

27 McAdams: But I understand your confusion. It is something that's always plagued
28 Transit. It was worse, actually. They had three tiers when I first started
29 doing transit stuff and nobody understood it. It was really a bureaucratic
30 mess. The only people that really understood it were the transit planners
31 who worked all the time in capital funding. So your confusion is well-
32 regarded and understandable if that helps you some. But it can be
33 explained. I would be glad to bring Mike up to explain those processes
34 too.
35

36 Eakman: I really appreciate this and my confusion is not so much my confusion, it's
37 a system confusion. It seems to me like we don't have a system in place
38 and instead we have quite a few different actions and intentions going on
39 at the same time. So I don't know if the MPO has the authority over this or
40 where it lies. But we are all elected officials up here trying to do our best
41 to serve our different areas and things like that. So I don't know, Madam
42 Chair, I'll leave it up to the rest of the group here but I'm wondering if we
43 should have a discussion sometime about what our role and responsibility
44 is on this very important topic for our population. I'll leave it there. Thank
45 you.
46

1 Flores: Do I have any other comments?
2
3 Pedroza: Madam Chair.
4
5 Flores: Olga Pedroza.
6
7 Pedroza: Thank you Madam Chair. I'm going to say I totally agree with Councillor
8 Eakman. I think that it's a very important topic because of all the benefits
9 that it brings to the residents and to the environment and all of that. So I
10 will probably urge my colleagues on the Council to ask Mr. Bartholomew
11 to come, unless we want to have him come just exclusively to this group,
12 to the MPO or to come to the Council and present some of the information
13 that Councillor Eakman has been asking for. That's all very very, so thank
14 you.
15
16 Flores: All right. Mayor Barraza.
17
18 Barraza: Madam Chair. I just want to maybe suggest also that when Mr. Murphy
19 returns or maybe for our next meeting, I don't think we're having a meeting
20 in July, correct?
21
22 Flores: No.
23
24 Barraza: We'll go into August?
25
26 Wray: Madam Chair, Mayor Barraza. There is no Policy Committee in July.
27
28 Barraza: July, okay. So possibly in August that Mr. Murphy put together a
29 presentation to address Councillor Eakman's concern about what the role
30 of the Board is in relation to the questions that he was asking.
31
32 Flores: Okay.
33
34 McAdams: Madam Chair. We would be glad to do that.
35
36 Flores: Okay. So we'll ask that be put on the August agenda then. And do I have
37 any other comments or questions?
38
39 **7.2 NMDOT update**
40
41 Flores: I think we can move along to New Mexico DOT updates. Mr. Doolittle.
42
43 Doolittle: Thank you Madam Chair. I only have two projects to give updates on this
44 month. The Spitz/Three Crosses project, for those of you that haven't
45 driven through there yet you're lucky and I would stay out of there. In all
46 reality you know we're, I drove through there this afternoon on my way to

1 this meeting and there is a lot of traffic at that intersection. But for the
2 most part I think it's moving very well. I sat through the southbound or
3 westbound direction on North Main through two signal phases and it really
4 only took me two or three minutes. So for as much traffic as we have
5 there it's really working much better than even I expected. If you haven't
6 driven through there we're working on the big retaining wall there on the
7 northwest section of the project. It actually looks really nice, kind of
8 cleaning up that intersection a little bit, doing a lot of utility work that the
9 City of Las Cruces is funding to improve the City's water and gas portions
10 of that project, and then we're working on our storm drains. So right now
11 you're not seeing a whole lot of work up top because everything is down
12 underneath, but it's working real well. We do continue to have our monthly
13 public meetings and I'll be sure that those notices continue to be sent out,
14 and we are coordinating with our contractor on a weekly basis just to
15 make sure that things are working well at that level. We have had some
16 City staff participate in our weekly meetings just to make sure that that
17 coordination between businesses' access and that kind of information is
18 being shared. So in all reality it's a very complicated, very busy project,
19 but for just getting started I think it's working out very well.

20 The other one that we have ongoing that some of you may have
21 driven through on your way here is the 17th Street signal. RT Electric,
22 who actually has an office just right down the street from that intersection
23 is our contractor, currently working on the conduit, sidewalk, and the
24 turning lanes. The expectation is they'll have that project completed by
25 the time school starts so there shouldn't be any impacts to the bus system
26 itself, which is good. It'll improve safety for those buses coming in and out
27 at that intersection.

28 And right now those are the only two projects we have ongoing.
29 We do have a tentative low-bid contractor for the Organ Pass Safety
30 project which will widen shoulders to allow for continuation of the bicycle
31 route over the pass at Organ. But right now again that's preliminary, as
32 soon as we have notice of award and get a contract onboard and a
33 schedule I'll be able to provide more details. With that Madam Chair I'll
34 stand for any questions.

35
36 Flores: Councillor Sorg.

37
38 Sorg: Thank you Madam Chair. Just a couple of things on this intersection. I
39 take it almost daily. The first one is as you are traveling from Spitz,
40 crossing Main Street onto Solano I notice there is no right turn lane there.
41 It just shows two lanes, one going straight and one going to the left. I
42 need an explanation for that because it doesn't seem to me that a person
43 who wants to turn right onto Main Street, it's a problem. Do you know
44 what that means there? People do it anyway. I see people turning there
45 to the right even though the arrow on the sign says straight ahead and
46 then the other lane for left turn.

1
2 Doolittle: Councillor Sorg. I'll have to check on that. A lot of times we'll restrict
3 movements only because the turning templates don't allow, it's too sharp
4 of a turn. So for instance if a truck was coming out of Albertson's, they
5 couldn't make that turn. Do you recall, does it specifically say "No Right
6 Turn" lane or is it ...
7
8 Sorg: Doesn't say "No Right Turn."
9
10 Doolittle: There's just not a designated ...
11
12 Sorg: It just doesn't, it has two lanes, one with the sign that says one is straight
13 ahead and the other's left turn.
14
15 Doolittle: Okay. I'll check on that but a lot of times the restriction has to do with they
16 don't meet the radiuses for a ...
17
18 Sorg: Yeah.
19
20 Doolittle: Turning template which you know they take those too short and start
21 clipping devices and people and, but I'll certainly check on that one.
22
23 Sorg: Yeah. The cars that I see go through there make that turn real easily.
24 That's why they do it I guess. But the other question I had was on the
25 medians on Main Street, I noticed on the east side of the intersection there
26 you took the medians out and paved them over. What's the plan for those
27 medians there?
28
29 Doolittle: Councillor Sorg. Those medians will be used for crossing traffic. So when
30 they get ready to do the utility work, for instance on the westbound side
31 they'll move all of the traffic to two-way traffic on the eastbound lanes. So
32 they ripped out the raised medians to allow for a detour crossover to be
33 paved.
34
35 Sorg: I see. Ultimately what will they be?
36
37 Doolittle: They'll be ...
38
39 Sorg: At the finish?
40
41 Doolittle: Councillor Sorg. They'll revert back to what they were before. They'll ...
42
43 Sorg: Okay.
44
45 Doolittle: Be raised medians to divide for access control.
46

1 Sorg: Okay. And landscaped, I trust?

2
3 Doolittle: There is landscaping on this project. I don't recall specifically what is
4 taking place in those medians.

5
6 Sorg: Okay. Okay. Thank you. That's fine. Thank you Madam Chair.

7
8 Flores: Anyone else? Okay.

9
10 **8. COMMITTEE AND STAFF COMMENTS**

11
12 Flores: And we'll move on to Committee and staff comments. So do we have any
13 more comments from staff?

14
15 Wray: Yes Madam Chair. I regret to say, it is my painful duty to inform the Policy
16 Committee that we are having significant and sustained attendance
17 problems on the part of the Technical Advisory Committee over the course
18 of this year. Staff did a review of attendance by TAC numbers over the
19 course of the last three years and there is in the MPO Bylaws a 75%
20 mandatory committee attendance requirement. Nine seats, over half of
21 the TAC is in violation of that requirement as of, over the course of the
22 past three years. At the last meeting on June 1st staff gave a presentation
23 to the TAC discussing this very issue, letting them know what the standard
24 is as laid out in the Bylaws. We are hopeful that this will serve to mitigate
25 and resolve this issue. I will say that at that particular meeting most of the
26 TAC was in attendance. So they should have gotten the message. But
27 Mr. Murphy did direct me to inform this Committee at this meeting that we
28 are having this issue and that the current situation is not sustainable. We
29 are going to have to either have improvement on the part of the
30 jurisdictions representing on the TAC or we are going to have to do some
31 rather substantial Bylaw amendments to sort of change kind of the way
32 things work with regards to the Advisory Committee. As I said we are
33 hopeful that this step will not be needed. We're going to be looking at,
34 we're going to be very carefully watching TAC attendance over the course
35 of the remainder of this year. If things improve then hopefully this'll be the
36 last you'll ever have to hear us say about it. If things do not improve then
37 probably by the end of this year MPO staff will be coming to this
38 Committee with some recommended Bylaw changes, requesting you to
39 intervene in this situation, so.

40 Moving on to a hopefully more positive topic, but I do want to
41 announce to the Committee that specifically regarding the Calle del Norte
42 Trail project for the Town of Mesilla, things are moving forward with that
43 very quickly. We've got the orientation meetings scheduled for the 19th
44 and 20th of July. I am working right now, coordinating with Town of
45 Mesilla staff to determine, we do not have to attend both meetings but we
46 have to attend one of them. It is mandatory. So I'm working with Town of

1 Mesilla staff so things are moving along very quickly. Hopefully, the start
2 of the next fiscal year's October 1st and that's when the design portion of
3 the money becomes available so hopefully in government terms, in a
4 relatively brief amount of time we'll actually see some progress and some
5 work going on out there.

6 And then lastly, this is the sort of bit of housekeeping that happens
7 every June meeting, but this is the last meeting that we're having here at
8 Dona Ana County for the Policy Committee. This body does not meet in
9 July as was mentioned earlier in the meeting. The next meeting is in
10 August and that will be held at the City Hall in the City Council Chambers.
11 So those are the staff announcements. I'll stand now for any questions.
12

13 Flores: I just want to know what jurisdictions you're having problems with on the
14 TAC so we can ...
15

16 Doolittle: Madam Chair. Mr. Murphy did specifically ask me at this meeting to not
17 single people out at this time. He would prefer to kind of do more, follow
18 more of a chain-of-command type of process of announcing it to the
19 Committee as a whole and then if things continue to be a problem over the
20 next couple of months to speak specifically to the individuals, and then to
21 the jurisdiction that the Member represents, and then if there doesn't seem
22 to be any improvement as a result of those two actions, at that point that
23 would be when we would start serious work on a Bylaws change. That's
24 why we're going to be taking our time, that's why we wouldn't be bringing
25 anything back to this Committee until the end of this year or the first of
26 next year, because we really do want to take some time and work with
27 people and try to remedy this with as little pain for everyone involved as
28 possible.
29

30 Flores: Okay. Mr. Doolittle.
31

32 Doolittle: Thank you Madam Chair. And Andrew, I know that serving on the El Paso
33 MPO we had some similar issues with some of their Committees. And I
34 don't recall, what are the repercussion for the TAC if they don't fulfill a
35 75%?
36

37 Wray: Currently the repercussion is eligibility for expulsion. That is a bit
38 problematic. It's, I don't like putting it this way but I can't really think of a
39 better way, it is easier to do to the BPAC for Citizen Representatives
40 because they are just themselves and there is in theory a whole universe
41 of eligible citizens who would be ready and willing to take the place on the
42 BPAC. Whereas the Technical Advisory Committee is a wholly-staff
43 endeavor. All of the positions, it's not necessarily, the seats are not
44 occupied by individuals, they're occupied, the seats are given to
45 jurisdictions. So it's a conundrum that we face of if we just theoretically
46 had to expel a TAC Member, what would be stopping the jurisdiction from

1 just reappointing that Member back again? You've mentioned the El Paso
2 situation. We have been looking very carefully at the El Paso MPO
3 Bylaws as far as how they handle it. That was kind of our number-one
4 stop as far as when we realized that we're going to have to address this
5 problem, that was the first place that we have looked. But I've also looked
6 at the Bylaws of other MPOs around the state. So like I said, hopefully
7 this'll be the last that this Committee will have to hear about this but we
8 have already started doing our research, so.

9
10 Doolittle: Madam Chair. If I may, I also hope that staff working with the TAC
11 addresses that issue but just for the Board Members' information one of
12 the things that the El Paso MPO did was they basically take away the
13 voting right from that position for that entire calendar year. And so that
14 maybe not influenced the person or the position that was selected for that
15 Committee, but the different entities understood the importance of that
16 voting privilege and the authority that came with that vote. And so the
17 upper management in those jurisdictions basically put more pressure on
18 the people that were assigned to those voting positions to encourage
19 participation. So again I hope, understanding my involvement with all of
20 you and your different entities I think that it'll be taken care of at that level.
21 But my experience working with El Paso MPO is there are ways to
22 encourage participation if it gets to that point, so thank you.

23
24 Flores: Thank you for that. Do we have any, Mayor Barraza.

25
26 Barraza: No, I just want to, Madam Chair. I want to reiterate what Mr. Doolittle just
27 said and I think as Members of the Policy it's going to be our responsibility
28 to go back to our entities and ensure that our Members are participating. I
29 know that is probably what I'm going to do when I leave the meeting today
30 is to go and speak to our representative to the TAC and I know we have
31 an alternate, and make sure that we are following through and we are
32 committed to the Mesilla Valley MPO so we need to make sure that we
33 have representation. And I just feel it's our responsibility to go back to our
34 entities and reassure the MPO that we all follow up on that.

35 And then my second comment is regarding the Trail. I guess as
36 soon as you all find dates, if you can let us know because with the Town
37 of Mesilla our match is like \$82-\$83,000 so we are going to be putting that
38 on our ICIP for this coming year and lobbying our legislators to assist us
39 with some of the funding for that. So the sooner you all get the
40 information to us the faster we can start acting on that. So thank you.

41
42 Wray: Yes Madam Chair, Madam Mayor. Yes, I'm presuming that that
43 information will be exactly part of what's going to be discussed at the
44 meeting in July, that sort of really technical level of detail is going to be
45 what's going to be discussed.

1 Flores: So any other comments from the Committee?
2
3 Sorg: Yes.
4
5 Flores: Councillor Sorg.
6
7 Sorg: Thank you Madam Chair. I just have a comment and a quick question. I
8 don't know if the, well I'll put it this way, if the Members of the Committee
9 have been watching the national news and believe me I don't watch much
10 of it anymore, but there was one thing that the Federal Government has
11 been talking about doing, threatening to do maybe, is to add more money
12 into infrastructure in the United States. And so my question is, is this
13 MPO and is DOT, and I'll ask the City this too, is it ready in case monies
14 from the Federal Government would come all of a sudden to use those
15 monies in infrastructure improvement? I just want to be ready because as
16 I recall it was, I'm counting the years now, I think it was nine years ago,
17 could've been eight, but I think it was nine years ago that the ARRA was it,
18 the American Recovery and, Act provided infrastructure money to all kinds
19 of jurisdictions in the country and because the City had a couple three
20 projects that were ready to go, shovel-ready as we call it, we got that
21 money and it was a good thing. So I'm asking if our jurisdictions here are
22 ready with a project or two that could go if the money comes.
23
24 Wray: Madam Chair, Councillor Sorg. I'm not speaking on behalf of any of the
25 jurisdictions it needs to be understood, but speaking on behalf of the MPO
26 is we have actually made pretty good progress for the most part through
27 the near term projects that were spelled out in the 2015 MTP. The one
28 thing that does leap to mind is something that was in that MTP that
29 ultimately, at least as of right now has not happened was the A Mountain
30 Study Area project. That funding was removed from us. As far as on-the-
31 ground projects, we made very good progress through the project list that
32 was in the MTP. I couldn't speak any further on behalf of any jurisdiction
33 as far as any project list for on their own behalf.
34
35 Sorg: Thank you. Thank you Madam Chair.
36
37 Flores: Were you with us when we went to El Paso? We were invited to, then we
38 talked about their transit system and one of their shovel-ready projects.
39 Did you attend that?
40
41 Sorg: I was there for a tour using the Sun Metro some time ago. Was that the
42 same one you're talking about?
43
44 Flores: I think so.
45
46 Sorg: I don't think, is it?

1
2 Flores: Yeah.

3
4 Sorg: Okay.

5
6 Flores: Okay. Well, Mr. Doolittle you ...

7
8 Doolittle: I'd just like to share, Madam Chair with the Board and with Councillor
9 Sorg. You know I've come before this Board on a couple of occasions
10 where we've had projects on the shelf and through redistribution where
11 other districts weren't spending their money we're able to acquire some of
12 that. Our district has been working with the South Central, Southern
13 Region Design Center out of our Las Cruces office and we frequently have
14 three or four projects on the shelf ready to go. I would tell you that we're
15 working on pavement preservation projects for all of I-10. Those of you
16 that have been on I-10, it's basically falling apart. So it's not necessarily
17 for us focusing on the MPO area specifically but we typically have three or
18 four projects ready to go, mostly because other districts aren't spending
19 their money. But we could certainly spend, I think our preliminary
20 estimates for the I-10 corridor are about \$160 million so if you all don't
21 have projects we'll certainly spend that money. Thank you Madam Chair.

22
23 Flores: All right. So anyone else?

24
25 **9. PUBLIC COMMENT**

26
27 Flores: Then we'll move on to public comment. Anyone from the public would like
28 to speak? And okay seeing none.

29
30 **10. ADJOURNMENT (2:10 PM)**

31
32 Flores: We'll move to adjournment. Thank you.

33
34
35
36
37
38 _____
39 Chairperson
40

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MESILLA VALLEY METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION POLICY COMMITTEE ACTION FORM FOR THE MEETING OF August 9, 2017

AGENDA ITEM:

6.1 2018-2023 Transportation Improvement Program Amendments

ACTION REQUESTED:

Review and recommendation for approval to the MPO Policy Committee

SUPPORT INFORMATION:

Resolution 17-08

Exhibit "A"

Self-Certification Statement

Email from Jolene Herrera, NMDOT

Email from Jolene Herrera, NMDOT

DISCUSSION:

On June 14, 2017, the MPO Policy Committee approved the 2018-2023 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

The following amendment(s) to the TIP have been requested:

CN	FY	Agency	Project & Termini	Scope	Change
LC00250	2018	NMDOT	University Interchange	Bridge Replacement, Ramp modifications/reconstruction, roadway reconstruction, and extension of multi-use path	Moving \$775,000 from construction to preliminary design in FFY 2018
G10040	2018	Doña Ana County	Soledad Canyon - Dripping Springs to End of Soledad Canyon	Preliminary Engineering, Construction Engineering, Construction	New \$10,166,500 Project

LC00300	2019	NMDOT	US 70 – Elks to Del Rey	Bridge & Pavement Preservation	Change in project termini and scope
---------	------	-------	----------------------------	-----------------------------------	--

This amendment will not affect any other projects currently listed in the TIP.

MESILLA VALLEY METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

RESOLUTION NO. 17-07

A RESOLUTION AMENDING THE FY 2016-2021 TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM.

The Mesilla Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Policy Committee is informed that:

WHEREAS, preparation of a financially constrained Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) is a requirement of the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Federal Transit Administration (FTA), and New Mexico Department of Transportation (NMDOT) (U.S.C. 23 § 450.324); and

WHEREAS, the Mesilla Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) is responsible for the planning and financial reporting of all federally funded and regionally significant transportation-related projects within the MPO Area for the specified fiscal years; and

WHEREAS, the Policy Committee adopted the FY 2018-2023 TIP on June 14, 2017; and

WHEREAS, the NMDOT has requested an amendment to the FY 2018-2023 TIP; and

WHEREAS, the MPO Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities Advisory Committee reviewed and recommended approval of these amendments at its July 18, 2017 meeting; and

WHEREAS, the MPO Technical Advisory Committee reviewed and recommended approval of these amendments at its August 3, 2017 meeting; and

WHEREAS, the Policy Committee has determined that it is in the best interest of the MPO for the Resolution amending the FY 2018-2023 Transportation Improvement Program to be approved.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Policy Committee of the Mesilla Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization:

(I)

THAT the Mesilla Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization's Fiscal Year 2018-2023 Transportation Improvement Program is amended as shown in Exhibit "A", attached hereto and made part of this resolution.

(II)

THAT the Mesilla Valley MPO's Self-Certification, as contained in Exhibit "B", attached hereto and made part of this resolution is hereby approved

(III)

THAT staff is directed to take appropriate and legal actions to implement this Resolution.

DONE and **APPROVED** this 9th day of August, 2017.

APPROVED:

Chair

Motion By:	
Second By:	
VOTE:	
Chair Flores	
Vice Chair Vasquez	
Trustee Arzabal	
Mayor Barraza	
Mr. Doolittle	
Councillor Eakman	
Councillor Pedroza	
Commissioner Rawson	
Commissioner Solis	

Councillor Sorg	
-----------------	--

ATTEST:

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Recording Secretary

City Attorney

EXHIBIT "A" FFY 2018-2023 TIP Amendments							
CN	FFY	Location	Termini	Scope	Current Funds	New Total	Change
LC00250	2018	University Avenue & Triviz	I-25 Interchange	Bridge Replacement & Interchange Modifications	\$27,800,000	\$27,000,000	Moving \$775K from construction to preliminary design in FFY 2018
G10040	2018	Soledad Canyon	Dripping Springs to End of Soledad Canyon	Preliminary Engineering, Construction Engineering, Construction	N/A	\$10,166,500	New Project
LC00300	2019	US 70 - Elks to Del Rey	MP 149.8 - 151	Bridge & Pavement Preservation	\$5,000,000	\$5,000,000	Change in project termini and scope



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Resolution 17-08 Exhibit “B”

MESILLA VALLEY MPO SELF-CERTIFICATION STATEMENT

In accordance with 23 U.S.C. 450.334, the New Mexico Department of Transportation, and the Mesilla Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization for the Las Cruces urbanized area hereby certify that the transportation planning process is addressing the major issues in the metropolitan planning area and is being conducted in accordance with all applicable requirements of:

- (1) 49 U.S.C. 5323(l), 23 U.S.C. 135, and 23 U.S.C. 450.220;
- (2) Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Title VI assurance executed by each State under 23 U.S.C. 324 and 29 U.S.C. 794;
- (3) Section 1101(b) of the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (Pub. L. 105-178) regarding the involvement of Disadvantaged Business Enterprises in FHWA and FTA funded planning projects (Sec. 105(f), Pub. L. 97-424, 96 Stat. 2100; 49 CFR, Subtitle A, Part 26);
- (4) The provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (Pub. L. 101-336, 104 Stat. 327, as amended) and U. S. DOT implementing regulation;
- (5) The provision of 49 U.S.C. Part 20 regarding restrictions on influencing certain activities; and
- (6) Sections 174 and 176(c) and (d) of the Clean Air Act as amended (42 U.S.C. 7504, 7506(c) and (d)).

POLICY COMMITTEE CHAIR

Date

NMDOT

Date

From: Herrera, Jolene M, NMDOT <JoleneM.Herrera@state.nm.us>
Sent: Monday, July 10, 2017 1:25 PM
To: Andrew Wray
Subject: TIP Admin Mod for LC00250

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Good afternoon Andrew,

Please set aside \$775K from construction for preliminary design in FY2018. This change can be made administratively since there is no net change in the project total.

Thanks,

Jolene Herrera
Urban & Regional Planner D1 & D2
NMDOT South Region Design
750 N. Solano Dr.
Las Cruces, NM 88001
O: (575) 525-7358
C: (575) 202-4698

From: Herrera, Jolene M, NMDOT <JoleneM.Herrera@state.nm.us>
Sent: Thursday, July 13, 2017 12:45 PM
To: Andrew Wray
Cc: Tom Murphy
Subject: Fwd: LC00300 New STIP

Good afternoon Andrew,

Please see below regarding a TIP amendment for LC00300. Although the package went out for BPAC next week can we do a floor amendment to get this approved?

Thanks,

Jolene Herrera
NMDOT Urban & Regional Planner
Cell: (575) 202-4698
Jolenem.herrera@state.nm.us

----- Original message -----

From: "Linnan, Andreas, NMDOT"
Date: 07/13/2017 12:35 PM (GMT-07:00)
To: "Herrera, Jolene M, NMDOT"
Cc: "Contreras-Apodaca, Gabriela, NMDOT" , "Chavarria, Aaron, NMDOT" , "Franks, Earl, NMDOT"
Subject: LC00300 New STIP

Good morning Jolene,

As briefly discussed this morning, please make sure that in the new STIP, we not only change the project scope, but also adjust the Project Termini as shown below.

CN: LC00300	Plan: 20162021-WRK-8	MPO/RPO: LAS CRUCES MPO - ID: 110.00	NMDOT Dist.: 1	County: V	
Fed/State ID: LC00300	Demo IDs:	Lead Agency:			
RT: US0070	Project Location: US 70 - ELKS TO DEL REY - FROM ELKS TO DEL REY			Beg/Er	
Category: Reconstruction- No Added Capacity				PDE	
Project Scope: BRIDGE & PAVEMENT PRESERVATION & ADA IMPROVEMENTS					
Proj. Phases: <input type="checkbox"/> Environ. Document <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Prel. Engr. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Design <input type="checkbox"/> Right-of-way <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Construction <input type="checkbox"/> Other FHWA Wo					
Remarks: AMENDED 2/8/17 TO MOVE TO FY 2019					
PROGRAMMED FUNDS					
FUND SOURCE	IMP TYP	2016	2017	2018	2019
State Match		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
National Highway Performance Program	04	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$4
TOTALS:		\$0	\$0	\$0	\$5

Thanks,

Andreas

Andreas Linnan, P.E., MBA

Project Development Engineer

NMDOT South Region Design

ASCE-NM Southern Branch President

750 N. Solano Dr.

Las Cruces, NM 88001

Work: 575-525-7316

Fax: 575-524-6060



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MESILLA VALLEY METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION POLICY COMMITTEE DISCUSSION FORM FOR THE MEETING OF August 9, 2017

AGENDA ITEM:

7.1 NMDOT Rail Plan Presentation

DISCUSSION:

NMDOT Staff will present on the 2018 New Mexico State Rail Plan.

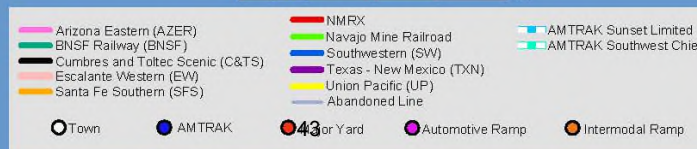
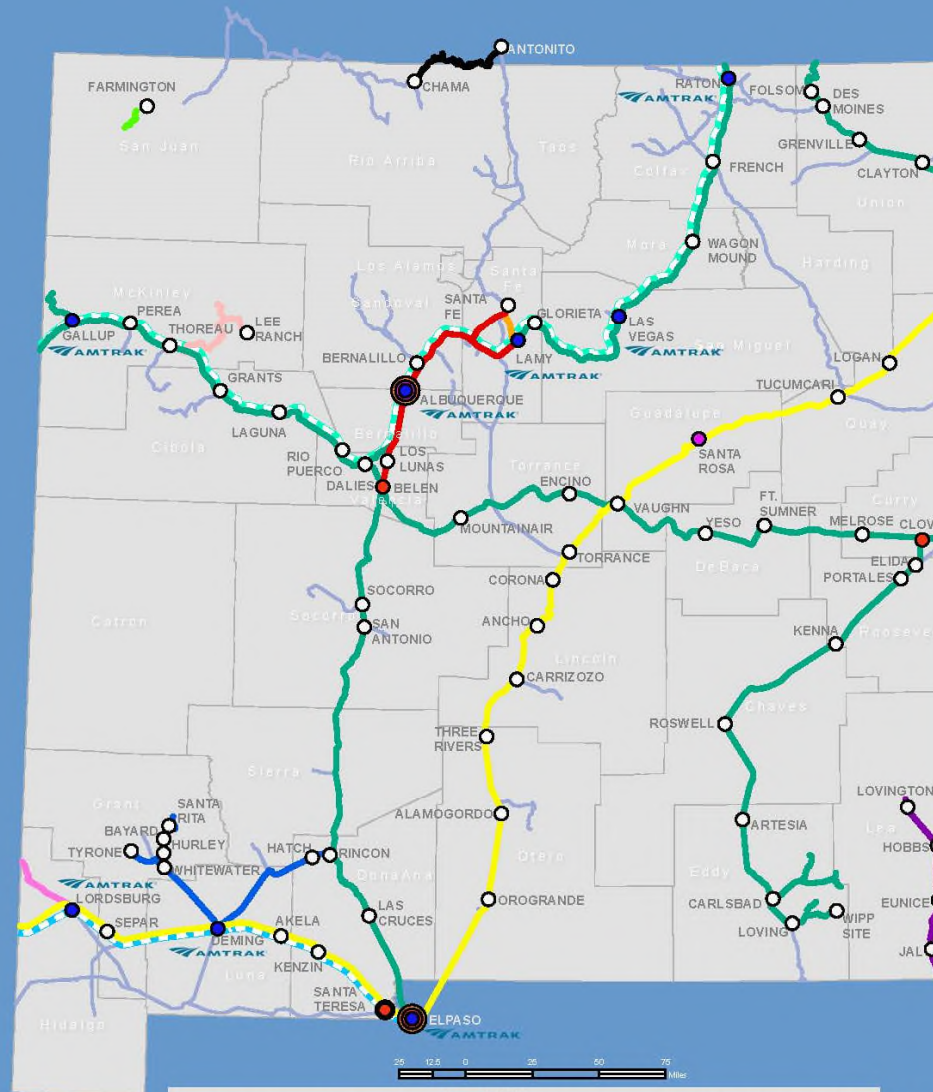
2018 New Mexico State Rail Plan

Mesilla Valley MPO

August 09, 2017



New Mexico Railroad Map



Why Develop a Rail Plan?

- Required by the Passenger Rail Investment and Improvement Act of 2008 (PRIIA)
- Required to receive future funding from Federal Railroad Administration (FRA)
- Coordinates with New Mexico's Long Range Transportation and Freight Plans

Purposes of Rail Plan

- Describes State Rail resources
- Sets forth State policy regarding passenger and freight rail transportation
- Presents priorities and strategies to enhance rail service that benefits the public
- Serves as the basis for Federal and State rail investments

Rail Plan Contents

- Vision, goals and objectives
 - ✓ Guide actions, programs, prioritizations
 - ✓ Provide linkages to State Transportation Plans
- Rail systems inventory and assessment
 - ✓ System inventory (freight and passenger)
 - ✓ Performance assessment
 - ✓ Issues and opportunities
 - ✓ Current and future needs
- Planning for the future
 - ✓ Prioritization of investments
 - ✓ Economic, environmental, community factors
 - ✓ Implementation of plan

Rail Plan Process

- Stakeholder outreach to determine needs, issues, and priorities
- Public involvement
- Draft rail plan
- Public and stakeholder review and comment
- Final rail plan submitted to Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) for approval
- Update plan every 4 years

Rail Plan Schedule

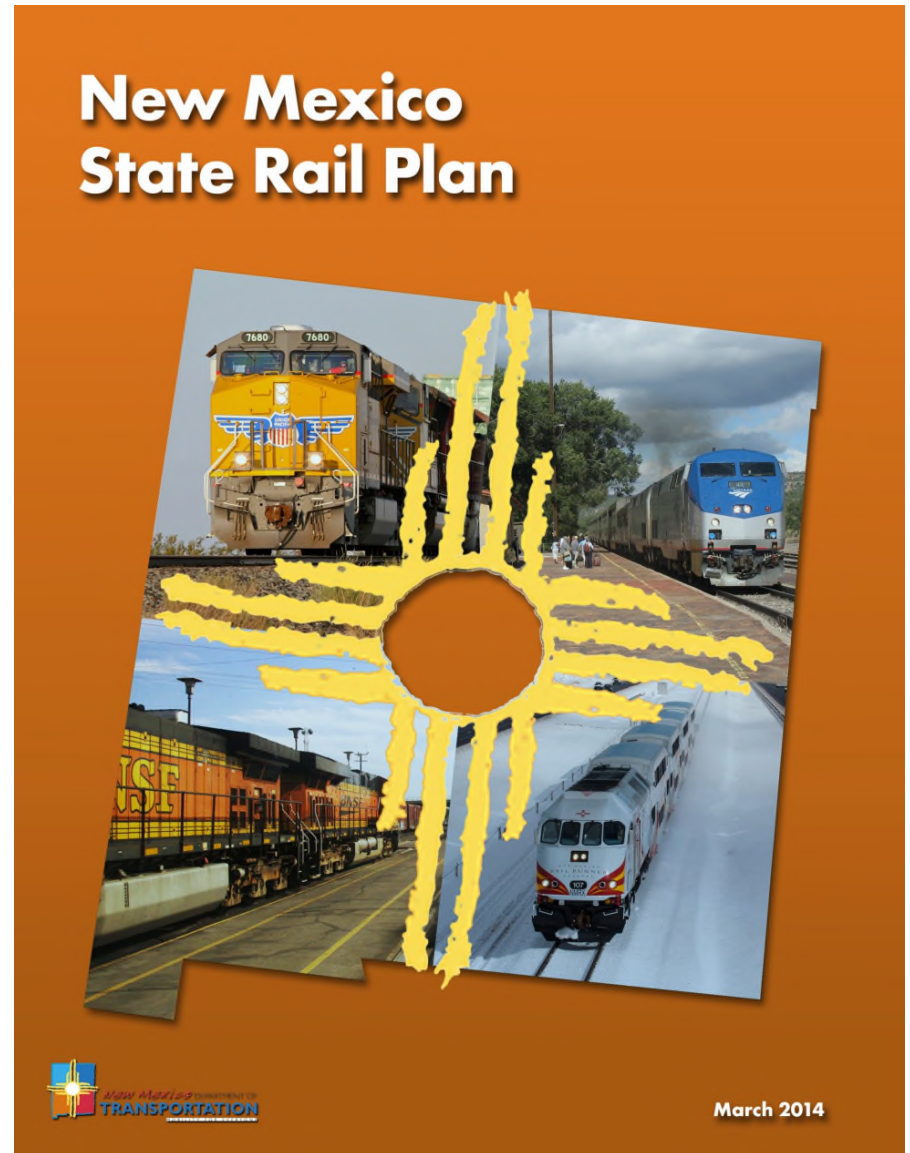
Milestones	2017								2018										
	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N
Stakeholder Outreach																			
Draft Plan																			
Public Review																			
Final Plan																			
FRA Review / Acceptance																			

- Initial outreach to MPOs and RTPOs in Summer of 2017
- Draft Rail Plan – Spring 2018
- Public meetings – Mid 2018
- Second round of presentations to MPOs and RTPOs - Mid 2018

Public Involvement

- Transit and Rail Page on NMDOT Website –
http://dot.state.nm.us/content/nmdot/en/Transit_Rail.html
 - 2014 Rail Plan
 - Public Presentation Schedule
 - Additional information
 - Link to On-Line Rail Survey
- Survey Link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/SPX2L83>
- Email Comments and Questions: Rail.Plan@state.nm.us

Updating the 2014 New Mexico State Rail Plan



2014 Rail Plan

Vision Statement

The State of New Mexico's vision for its rail network is a fully-integrated and safe multimodal rail system that provides efficient passenger services to, from, and within the state; provides a competitive option for New Mexico shippers; is a vital component of the national transportation network; and supports sustainable, inclusive economic development statewide.

2014 Rail Plan Statewide Goals

Four main goals for rail in New Mexico:

1. Support economic growth and development;
2. Improve railroad safety and security;
3. Maintain railroad assets in a state of good repair;
and
4. Promote efficient passenger rail service

Goal: Support Economic Growth and Development

- Increase capacity of long-distance freight corridors
- Develop and promote local freight connections
- Promote rail-related tourism
- Link rail investments to strategies that support economic development

Goal: Improve Railroad Safety and Security

- Positive Train Control (PTC)
- Develop and implement other mandatory safety-related measures
- Improve highway-rail grade crossing safety
- Improve rail security

Goal: Maintain Railroad Assets in a State of Good Repair

- Improve the conditions of the state's Class III rail lines
- Maintain/improve the conditions of the NMRX rail lines

Goal: Promote Efficient Passenger Rail Service

- Improve passenger rail options in New Mexico as part of a multimodal transportation system
- Improve Rail Runner operations
- Identify stable and predictable funding for Rail Runner and NMRX rail lines

2014 Rail Plan Stakeholder Statewide Issues

- Passenger rail service improvements
 - Existing Rail Runner alignment
 - New commuter/regional passenger rail
 - High speed/intercity passenger rail
- Support local economic development
- Grade crossing safety
- Positive Train Control (PTC)
- Santa Teresa border crossing

2014 Rail Plan Projects Impacting MVMPO Region

- Union Pacific Santa Teresa Expansion
- Santa Teresa Port of Entry
- Proposed El Paso-Las Cruces Commuter Rail

Factors Affecting Prioritization of Project Funding

- Need to maintain the State's existing railroad infrastructure in a state of good repair
- Need to comply with Federal safety mandates
- Limited overall public funding from Federal, State and local sources
- Restrictions on use of available Federal funding
- Anti-Donation Clause

Major Developments Since 2014

- Santa Teresa intermodal facility opened in 2014
- BNSF double-tracking projects completed through New Mexico in 2016
- New transload facilities in Albuquerque's South Valley being developed
- TIGER Grant funds are being used to replace railroad ties on NMDOT track used by Amtrak Southwest Chief in 2017
- Intermodal facilities underway being developed along BNSF Transcon (Gallup, Los Lunas)
- New rail-served facilities being developed in southeast New Mexico

We Want Your Comments On

- The Vision Statement
- Rail projects and priorities
- Funding mechanisms for rail
- Rail policy

Thank You



Please send comments and questions to:
Rail.Plan@state.nm.us

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MESILLA VALLEY METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION POLICY COMMITTEE DISCUSSION FORM FOR THE MEETING OF August 9, 2017

AGENDA ITEM:

7.2 SCRTD Rail Study

DISCUSSION:

SCRTD Staff will discuss the Las-Cruces El Paso Commuter Rail Feasibility Study, completed in June 2017. The Study was funded via State funds. A consulting company hired by SCRTD, Center for Neighborhood Technology, performed the analysis to determine the potential of passenger rail in the Las Cruces and El Paso area. Public engagement was facilitated by Ngage New Mexico. The full report can be found on the website of SCRTD at: <http://scrted.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/Final-F-6-23-17-NMSCRTD-Passenger-Rail-Report158449.pdf> .

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MESILLA VALLEY METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION POLICY COMMITTEE DISCUSSION FORM FOR THE MEETING OF August 9, 2017

AGENDA ITEM:

7.3 BPAC Recommendation on Design Standards

SUPPORT INFORMATION:

NACTO Draft Resolution for Policy Committee Approval

DISCUSSION:

At the May 16, 2017 the BPAC requested MPO Staff to develop a draft resolution regarding the NACTO design standards for review.

At their July 18, 2017 meeting the BPAC recommended approval of the resolution.

MPO Staff will present to the Policy Committee regarding this proposed resolution.

MESILLA VALLEY METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

RESOLUTION NO. 17-xx

A RESOLUTION RECOMMENDING THE ADOPTION OF NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COMMUNITY TRANSPORTATION OFFICIALS URBAN STREET DESIGN GUIDE BY MPO MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

WHEREAS, the Mesilla Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) is the transportation planning agency for the City of Las Cruces, the Town of Mesilla and the urbanized portion of Doña Ana County; and

WHEREAS, the Las Cruces Metropolitan Planning Organization 2040 Transportation Plan states as two of its goals to: “provide and improve multi-modal and intermodal options for all users and increase transportation safety for all uses starting with the most vulnerable modes”; and,

WHEREAS, The Urban Street Design Guide offers well-articulated and visual approaches for improving the safety and livability of our streets for pedestrians, bicyclists, drivers, and transit users; and

WHEREAS, Urban city streets demand a unique approach unmet by most conventional design guidelines and

WHEREAS, The MPO views the Guide as an important reference in planning modern urban city streets that not only complements our member agencies’ own design guidance, but is a companion with other international national and local resources that is in use widely available to encourage well connected modes of transportation for all people; and

WHEREAS, the Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities Advisory Committee recommended the use of the Guide by all member MPO agencies at their June 18, 2017 meeting; and

WHEREAS, the Technical Advisory Committee recommended the use of the Guide by all member MPO agencies at their (month) (date), 2017 meeting , and;

WHEREAS, the Policy Committee has determined that it is in the best interest of all appropriate implementing agencies to adopt the Guide.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved by the Policy Committee of the Mesilla Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization:

THAT the Policy Committee recommends that all appropriate implementing agencies adopt the Guide .

DONE and **APPROVED** this ____ day of __ , 2017.

APPROVED:

Chair

Motion By:	
Second By:	
VOTE:	
Chair Flores	
Vice Chair Vasquez	
Mayor Barraza	
Trustee Bernal	
Mr. Doolittle	
Commissioner Rawson	
Commissioner Solis	
Councillor Eakman	
Councillor Pedroza	
Councillor Sorg	

ATTEST:

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Recording Secretary

City Attorney

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MESILLA VALLEY METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION POLICY COMMITTEE DISCUSSION FORM FOR THE MEETING OF August 9, 2017

AGENDA ITEM:

7.4 Public Transportation in MVMPO

DISCUSSION:

MPO Staff will give a presentation regarding Public Transportation coordination with the Mesilla Valley MPO.