

**MESILLA VALLEY METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

The following are minutes for the meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee of the Mesilla Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) which was held December 7, 2017 at 4:00 p.m. in the City of Las Cruces Council Chambers, 700 N. Main, Las Cruces, New Mexico.

MEMBERS PRESENT: David Armijo (SCRTD) (arrived 4:06)
Mike Bartholomew (CLC Transit)
Bill Childress (BLM)
Michael Garza (DAC Flood Commission)
Jolene Herrera (NMDOT)
Harold Love (NMDOT)
Rene Molina (DAC Eng.) (arrived 4:07)
Lily Sensiba (EBID)
Larry Shannon (Town of Mesilla)
Tony Trevino (CLC Public Works) (arrived 4:05)

MEMBERS ABSENT: Todd Gregory (LCPS)
Dale Harrell (NMSU)
Soo Gyu Lee (CLC)
Debbi Lujan (Town of Mesilla)
Luis Marmolejo (DAC Planning)

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

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

1. CALL TO ORDER (4:01 PM)

Bartholomew: I'll go ahead and call the meeting to order in the absence of a chair and in the absence of a chair I guess we need a motion for a chair.

Love: I make a motion that Mike Bartholomew be acting Chair for today.

Childress: I second the motion.

Bartholomew: It's been moved and seconded. I'll go ahead and accept. We'll vote on it.
All in favor.

MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY.

1
2 Bartholomew: Opposed. No opposition. Again this the meeting of the MPO's Technical
3 Advisory Committee for December the 7th.
4

5 **2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

6

7 Bartholomew: The first action is the approval of the agenda. Are there any changes to
8 the agenda?
9

10 Wray: No Mr. Chair.
11

12 Bartholomew: Do I have a motion?
13

14 Shannon: I make a motion to approve the agenda.
15

16 Garza: Second.
17

18 Bartholomew: It's been moved and seconded. All in favor.
19

20 MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY.
21

22 Bartholomew: Opposed. Motion passes. I forgot, before we move to the next item I'll
23 just go down and so everybody that's present can introduce themselves.
24 And just remind the Committee that anytime they speak if they could state
25 their name for the record so the clerk knows who's speaking. I'll start at
26 the far right over here.
27

28 Sensiba: Lily Sensiba, EBID.
29

30 Shannon: Larry Shannon, Town of Mesilla.
31

32 Herrera: Jolene Herrera, NMDOT.
33

34 Love: Harold Love, NMDOT.
35

36 Garza: Michael Garza, Dona Ana County Flood Commission.
37

38 Bartholomew: Mike Bartholomew, City of Las Cruces RoadRUNNER Transit.
39

40 Childress: Bill Childress, Bureau of Land Management.
41

42 Bartholomew: Thank you.
43

44 **3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

45

46 **3.1 November 2, 2017**

1
2 Bartholomew: We'll move on to the approval of the minutes. Folks had a chance to look
3 at the minutes. And if there are no changes I'll take a motion to accept the
4 minutes.
5

6 Childress: I make a motion to accept the minutes as is.
7

8 Herrera: I second.
9

10 Bartholomew: It's been moved and seconded. All in favor please say "aye."
11

12 MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY.
13

14 Bartholomew: Opposed. Motion passes.
15

16 **4. PUBLIC COMMENT** 17

18 Bartholomew: Doesn't appear we have any public today for public comment.
19

20 **5. ACTION ITEMS** 21

22 **5.1 UPWP Amendment: FY17 carryover** 23

24 Bartholomew: I will move onto the first action item, UPWP amendment, FY17 carryover.
25

26 ANDREW WRAY GAVE HIS PRESENTATION:
27

28 Bartholomew: Are there any questions on this requested amendment?
29

30 Love: Mr. Chair.
31

32 Bartholomew: Yes.
33

34 Love: Does the MPO have any special allocation for this carryover money, is it
35 going to go to a specific project or specific task?
36

37 Wray: This is just money that was programed for '17 that was no actually spent
38 so the intended allocations are what is present in the Fiscal Year '18
39 section on page 16.
40

41 Bartholomew: I was looking at that, so the allocation it wasn't added to any particular
42 programming that you're doing? It was already in there.
43

44 Wray: I believe it was spread out.
45

1 Murphy: Mr. Chair. The remainder balance was spread out equally over the five
2 program areas that we do fearing that it would absorb in. Keep in mind
3 that we had lowered it by about a third of that amount at our last one when
4 the obligation limit was changed at the federal level, so for the most part
5 this reinstates some of the funding we had lost at that bit and the
6 remainder funding is such that it doesn't do any new program or perhaps
7 supplement something that's already within the work program.
8

9 Bartholomew: Okay. Any other questions?

10
11 Herrera: Mr. Chair.

12
13 Bartholomew: Yes.

14
15 Herrera: Less a question, more a comment. So I understand what you all just said
16 but I would like us to focus less on the administration portion and more on
17 the actual planning portion so we can have that discussion if we need to
18 do modifications to your work program throughout the fiscal year.
19

20 Bartholomew: Does your request Jolene require any additional thing to the motion?

21
22 Herrera: No, I don't think so right now. I mean we're just rolling over the funding
23 and then as we get further into the fiscal year and we decide what's
24 important to this committee, what the policy committee thinks is important,
25 then we can shift the money around if we need to at that time.
26

27 Bartholomew: Okay. If there are no other questions. I guess you need a motion to
28 recommend this to the Policy Committee, is that correct?
29

30 Wray: Yes Mr. Chair.

31
32 Love: So moved.

33
34 Herrera: Second.

35
36 Bartholomew: It's been moved and seconded to recommend the UPWP amendment in
37 the Fiscal Year '17 carryover to the Policy Committee as presented. We'll
38 go ahead and vote on it. All in favor.
39

40 MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY.

41
42 Bartholomew: Opposed. The motion passes.
43

44 6. DISCUSSION ITEMS

45 6.1 Potential FY19-FY20 UPWP items 46

1
2 Bartholomew: Item number six is discussion item, potential FY19-FY20 UPWP items.
3

4 Wray: Yes Mr. Chair. Mr. McAdams will present on this.
5

6 MICHAEL MCADAMS GAVE HIS PRESENTATION.
7

8 Bartholomew: That's a lot of good suggestions on there. How does this process unfold
9 in your discussion? Are you going to be looking at, I mean a lot of these
10 are good suggestions, are you looking at a prioritization process?
11

12 McAdams: I think as a staff level we would. And also we would rely on the TAC and
13 the Policy Committee to also decide about priorities that they would like to
14 do, the both Committees, and also the BPAC on what they would like to
15 see done too as well.
16

17 Bartholomew: I had just a comment also, on the short range transit plan, one of the
18 things at least you know to help for justification of some of our budget
19 expenses that are coming up in more shorter ranges, we haven't really
20 addressed some of the technology issues and how we can, we're finding
21 ourselves in a position where technology's is fast out-pacing our staff's
22 ability to understand it and keep up with it. And from a customer service
23 point of view is a lot of this technology is amenities for the customers on
24 how the fair collection is done, fairs are paid for, integration of fairs with
25 other services. Even the simple stuff that's out there right now, Wi-Fi and
26 all of that kind of stuff, is it something we really should be looking at. What
27 should we be looking at in technology? How should we be staffing for it?
28 It's a bit of a dilemma.
29

30 Herrera: Mr. Chair. I have some comments and some questions. First I think I'd
31 like clarification on the MPO's role or at least what you all envision for the
32 Las Cruces/El Paso Commuter Rail study.
33

34 McAdams: Mr. Chair, Ms. Herrera. I think we're looking at ideas. How we can
35 facilitate that with the RTD. It's not really formulated but I think we look at
36 how we can go to another stage and looking at Las Cruces and El Paso
37 Commuter Rail. RTD may have other plans but we'd like to at least
38 introduce this at an MPO level for the work program.
39

40 Herrera: And I think that that's okay, I just would be careful with the wording there,
41 with pre-engineering and detailed cost estimates. I mean that's kind of a
42 little bit outside of planning I would say. I mean we can talk more about
43 that as we develop the UPWP, but I want to be careful about what exactly
44 you're putting in as work tasks for MPO staff.
45

1 McAdams: Ms. Herrera, Mr. Chair. I agree completely. But that's just an idea.
2 Probably we would not be doing, I certainly don't have that expertise, but I
3 think that maybe work with consultants that. What we're doing at this
4 stage is introducing ideas and this would be possibly maybe a joint project
5 with SCRTD and the MPO and the State, etc. So this is just an idea of
6 course. We would not be doing pre-engineering.
7
8 Herrera: Okay. Thank you.
9
10 Murphy: Mr. Chair, Ms. Herrera. If I could add some further clarification to that one,
11 this concept has been identified by the City as one of their strategic goals
12 so I think one of the things, and they've stated that they want to get into
13 our MTP. I think by including it into our work program, including the
14 discussion about the cost, we're trying to identify what it would take to get
15 it included in a fiscally constrained MTP at some point, not in this but the
16 next MTP update round. So we would be careful that all of our work is
17 planning level related.
18
19 Herrera: Thank you. I also had a question on, well there's two number twos, but
20 the second number two, the MTP update preparation, will you be looking
21 at any performance measures or scenario-type planning in your MTP
22 update?
23
24 McAdams: Mr. Chair, Ms. Herrera. What kind are scenarios are you thinking about?
25
26 Herrera: There are different kinds. For instance in the statewide long-range plan
27 we have scenarios as far as if more revenue were to come in or if we were
28 to create more revenue somehow, that would be one scenario. Keeping
29 everything flat is another scenario. And that maybe low funding, that's just
30 once thing. Albuquerque's MPO has looked at different things as far as
31 water and some other stuff, so I'm just curious if you guys are looking at
32 any of that kind of planning.
33
34 McAdams: Mr. Chair, Ms. Herrera. I think it's too early right now in the process. Of
35 course we look at all the things like we did last time with the financial
36 resources. I think those are good points, but this time we're just looking at
37 what will be changing from the last long range plan, but of course we will
38 look at those things.
39
40 Herrera: Okay, and then just the last thing. I guess to hit again on performance
41 measures, so for small MPOs there's less requirements for that, but there
42 is the final planning rule that came out, I think it was May of last year, that
43 has some very specific things in it for MTP updates, so if you guys can just
44 make sure that you're looking at that when you're updating the document.
45
46 McAdams: Of course. If you could send that I'd appreciate that.

1
2 Herrera: Okay. Thanks. One more thing Mr. Chair.

3
4 Bartholomew: Go ahead.

5
6 Herrera: As far as the safety data collection. So you have crashes on here and
7 then you have collision analysis for all modes. So I know that we've talked
8 a lot about doing like a more detailed safety analysis for the MPO area. Is
9 that sort of maybe what you're envisioning here using some of this data for
10 that?

11
12 McAdams: Mr. Chair, Ms. Herrera. Of course. We're looking at more than just transit,
13 of course we're looking at that too but looking at divide different modes
14 and then also looking maybe quarters, intersections and stuff. So really
15 delving down deep as much as we can. Some of the difficulty already that
16 the cars are often not paying attention which we know are really due to
17 cell phone texting and some of the intersection data although we may
18 have crash rates, are really (*inaudible*) them again, it's really hard to
19 detect what exactly is a problem intersection. So I agree with you
20 completely. But I think that, I've been working on that, in fact the whole
21 staff's been working on that and developing a report and going beyond just
22 mere total collisions, but also looking at quarters, intersections, and the
23 type, if we can isolate in certain areas, what exactly is the problem this
24 stuff too, as much as we can at the staff level. I think one of the real
25 purposes of collision analysis is really get ourself set up for the HSIP, so
26 we can really look at maybe some areas need to be studied further that
27 we don't have the expertise or the time, that's (*inaudible*) into so we can
28 improve some of the area to and (*inaudible*) with the state goals.

29
30 Herrera: Right, that's kind of what I was trying to get at is I want us to be set up to
31 where we can take advantage of HSIP funds if they become available to
32 local governments and then also we should be picking projects in the MTP
33 that definitely support safety and specifically target some of these high
34 crash areas. So that's all I have.

35
36 McAdams: Mr. Chair, Ms. Herrera. I couldn't agree more. That's one of our goals to
37 not just do studies, but actually get more detailed studies and actually
38 have these studies translate into actual projects that will improve the
39 safety for our area.

40
41 Bartholomew: Other questions at this time? It looks like there are no other questions at
42 this time.

43
44 McAdams: Thank you.

45
46 Bartholomew: Thank you.

1
2 **7. COMMITTEE AND STAFF COMMENTS**
3

4 **7.1 City of Las Cruces, Dona Ana County, Town of Mesilla, Las Cruces**
5 **Public Schools, RoadRUNNER Transit, SCRTD Project Updates**
6

7 Bartholomew: Next item is Committee and staff comments, so I guess we start with the
8 Committee comments, anything from City of Las Cruces, Tony?
9

10 Trevino: At this point Roadrunner Parkway is out for advertisement and for bid right
11 which will be opening the bids here in January and hopefully starting
12 construction in March. So that will be a big ongoing project for about nine
13 months. Harrelson is still in the permitting process for DOT, waiting on a
14 few drainage and some utility permits. Yesterday we did the final
15 walkthrough on the Amador/Melendres streetlight, that one looked good,
16 so that one's finalized now. That's all I have.
17

18 Bartholomew: Thank you. How about Dona Ana County?
19

20 Molina: Yes, so we have two projects that are associated with this group. Soledad
21 Canyon we had the 70% plan review on the 28th at the Farm and Ranch.
22 It was very well attended. We're looking at accelerating that project and
23 going into construction possibly as soon as September 2018. Next project
24 is the El Camino Real and Dona Ana School Road project and we're
25 working with DOT for right-of-way certification. That's it. Thank you.
26

27 Bartholomew: Thank you. Town of Mesilla.
28

29 Shannon: Town of Mesilla has nothing new to report today.
30

31 Bartholomew: Thank you. Schools are not here I guess, nobody from Public Schools.
32 RoadRUNNER Transit. We're still working on, we've actually got a
33 resolution going to the City Council on the 18th of December. We want to
34 add basically another route so that it's formally in the budget to have this
35 other bus that we're already running out there right now and do it on a
36 permanent basis. And with that particular bus that we're going to redesign
37 what we call our Route 8 so that we return service to the Solano Street
38 area. We're also doing a few other minor tweaks. We're hopeful that the
39 Council will approve it. We'll have to go actually back for a budget
40 adjustment in early January and we hope to implement these route
41 changes in March. David do you have anything for South Central?
42

43 Armijo: Yeah I just have one item. I reported some months ago, we've been
44 working on Google maps and I have a very limited technical team that's on
45 contract and I lost my webmaster guy doing that, so I had to pick up much
46 of the pieces of the project. But I did meet with the new team last week

1 and we think we're going to be able to get that in place before the end of
2 December, then it's really up to Google how soon they can provide the
3 app that will go live. So I'm going to say the first quarter of 2018 just to be
4 safe, but really they do have all the information at this point, all stops and
5 whatnot. So I'm kind of looking forward to that. I've used that a couple
6 other transit agency environments and it's going to be very helpful to work
7 within that environment and I think it will give folks who aren't really sure
8 what we're doing, you can just pop down the app and take a quick look
9 and then you can see where all the service is and I think that's going to be
10 very instructive for all of us. Hopefully by next month we're report that it's
11 almost operational.

12
13 Bartholomew: Very good. You will be well ahead of us in that respect then.

14
15 Armijo: I don't have as many stops. Yeah, your project would be tough.

16
17 Bartholomew: That does it for the committee updates.

18 19 **7.2 NMDOT Projects Update**

20
21 Bartholomew: Except for NMDOT project updates.

22
23 Herrera: Thank you Mr. Chair. I'm happy to report that we have three projects that
24 are substantially complete. The projects on Tortugas Drive and Thorp
25 Road, they're doing small punch-list items on both of those, so there
26 shouldn't be any traffic control out there. And the same with the project
27 over the San Augustin Pass, on US-70, all work is complete and the
28 project office is finalizing that project now. The only other project we have
29 in the area is Spitz, Solano, and Three Crosses and we are on schedule
30 with that one, still looking for April/May of next year for completion on that
31 project. Valley Drive, we are re-letting that project. I think bids open next
32 Friday on it and so we'll see what happens.

33
34 Bartholomew: Is that the one you had to let out a second time?

35
36 Herrera: Yes.

37
38 Bartholomew: Okay.

39
40 Herrera: Yeah, and that's really all we have going on right now unless there's any
41 questions. Thank you.

42
43 Bartholomew: Okay.

44 45 **7.3 MPO Staff Projects Update**

1 Bartholomew: How about MPO staff update.

2
3 Wray: Yes Mr. Chair. As this is the last meeting for this Committee of 2017 I
4 want to remind everyone that starting in January we're back at the County
5 for our meeting. I'm afraid I don't recall off the top of my head what the
6 date is, but first Thursday in January we'll be back at Dona Ana County for
7 the TAC meeting.
8

9 Bartholomew: The fourth I think.

10
11 Wray: The fourth of January I'm being told. Is there anything else that we need
12 to relay? Happy New Year.
13

14 Bartholomew: Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.
15

16 **8. PUBLIC COMMENT**

17
18 Bartholomew: And again I don't see any public that has joined us here.
19

20 **9. ADJOURNMENT (4:34 PM)**

21
22 Bartholomew: At this point I guess I could take a motion for adjournment. Nobody
23 want's to leave.
24

25 Herrera: So moved.

26
27 Trevino: Second.
28

29 Bartholomew: It's been moved and seconded. All in favor say "aye."
30

31 MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY.
32

33 Bartholomew: Opposed. Have a good Christmas and New years everyone.
34
35

36
37 
38 _____
39 Chairperson