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.
2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

Wray: No Mr. Chair.

Bartholomew: Do I have a motion?

Shannon: I make a motion to approve the agenda.

Garza: Second.

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

MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY.

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

Sensiba: Lily Sensiba, EBID.

Shannon: Larry Shannon, Town of Mesilla.

Herrera: Jolene Herrera, NMDOT.

Love: Harold Love, NMDOT.

Garza: Michael Garza, Dona Ana County Flood Commission.

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

Childress: Bill Childress, Bureau of Land Management.

Bartholomew: Thank you.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

3.1 November 2, 2017
Bartholomew: We'll move on to the approval of the minutes. Folks had a chance to look at the minutes. And if there are no changes I'll take a motion to accept the minutes.

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

Herrera: I second.

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

MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY.

Bartholomew: Opposed. Motion passes.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

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

5. ACTION ITEMS

5.1 UPWP Amendment: FY17 carryover

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

ANDREW WRAY GAVE HIS PRESENTATION:

Bartholomew: Are there any questions on this requested amendment?

Love: Mr. Chair.

Bartholomew: Yes.

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

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

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

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

Bartholomew: Okay. Any other questions?

Herrera: Mr. Chair.

Bartholomew: Yes.

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

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

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

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

Wray: Yes Mr. Chair.

Love: So moved.

Herrera: Second.

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

MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY.

Bartholomew: Opposed. The motion passes.

6. DISCUSSION ITEMS

6.1 Potential FY19-FY20 UPWP items
Bartholomew: Item number six is discussion item, potential FY19-FY20 UPWP items.

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

MICHAEL MCADAMS GAVE HIS PRESENTATION.

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

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

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

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

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

Herrera: And I think that's okay, I just would be careful with the wording there, with pre-engineering and detailed cost estimates. I mean that's kind of a little bit outside of planning I would say. I mean we can talk more about that as we develop the UPWP, but I want to be careful about what exactly you're putting in as work tasks for MPO staff.
McAdams: Ms. Herrera, Mr. Chair. I agree completely. But that's just an idea. Probably we would not be doing, I certainly don't have that expertise, but I think that maybe work with consultants that. What we're doing at this stage is introducing ideas and this would be possibly maybe a joint project with SCRTD and the MPO and the State, etc. So this is just an idea of course. We would not be doing pre-engineering.

Herrera: Okay. Thank you.

Murphy: Mr. Chair, Ms. Herrera. If I could add some further clarification to that one, this concept has been identified by the City as one of their strategic goals so I think one of the things, and they've stated that they want to get into our MTP. I think by including it into our work program, including the discussion about the cost, we're trying to identify what it would take to get it included in a fiscally constrained MTP at some point, not in this but the next MTP update round. So we would be careful that all of our work is planning level related.

Herrera: Thank you. I also had a question on, well there's two number twos, but the second number two, the MTP update preparation, will you be looking at any performance measures or scenario-type planning in your MTP update?

McAdams: Mr. Chair, Ms. Herrera. What kind are scenarios are you thinking about?

Herrera: There are different kinds. For instance in the statewide long-range plan we have scenarios as far as if more revenue were to come in or if we were to create more revenue somehow, that would be one scenario. Keeping everything flat is another scenario. And that maybe low funding, that's just once thing. Albuquerque's MPO has looked at different things as far as water and some other stuff, so I'm just curious if you guys are looking at any of that kind of planning.

McAdams: Mr. Chair, Ms. Herrera. I think it's too early right now in the process. Of course we look at all the things like we did last time with the financial resources. I think those are good points, but this time we're just looking at what will be changing from the last long range plan, but of course we will look at those things.

Herrera: Okay, and then just the last thing. I guess to hit again on performance measures, so for small MPOs there's less requirements for that, but there is the final planning rule that came out, I think it was May of last year, that has some very specific things in it for MTP updates, so if you guys can just make sure that you're looking at that when you're updating the document.

McAdams: Of course. If you could send that I'd appreciate that.
Herrera: Okay. Thanks. One more thing Mr. Chair.

Bartholomew: Go ahead.

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

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

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

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

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

McAdams: Thank you.

Bartholomew: Thank you.
7. COMMITTEE AND STAFF COMMENTS

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

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

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

Bartholomew: Thank you. How about Dona Ana County?

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

Bartholomew: Thank you. Town of Mesilla.

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

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

Armijo: Yeah I just have one item. I reported some months ago, we've been working on Google maps and I have a very limited technical team that's on contract and I lost my webmaster guy doing that, so I had to pick up much of the pieces of the project. But I did meet with the new team last week
and we think we're going to be able to get that in place before the end of December, then it's really up to Google how soon they can provide the app that will go live. So I'm going to say the first quarter of 2018 just to be safe, but really they do have all the information at this point, all stops and whatnot. So I'm kind of looking forward to that. I've used that a couple other transit agency environments and it's going to very helpful to work within that environment and I think it will give folks who aren't really sure what we're doing, you can just pop down the app and take a quick look and then you can see where all the service is and I think that's going to be very instructive for all of us. Hopefully by next month we're report that it's almost operational.

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

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

Bartholomew: That does it for the committee updates.

7.2 NMDOT Projects Update

Bartholomew: Except for NMDOT project updates.

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

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

Herrera: Yes.

Bartholomew: Okay.

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

Bartholomew: Okay.

7.3 MPO Staff Projects Update
Bartholomew: How about MPO staff update.

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

Bartholomew: The fourth I think.

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

Bartholomew: Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

8. PUBLIC COMMENT

Bartholomew: And again I don't see any pubic that has joined us here.

9. ADJOURNMENT (4:34 PM)

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

Herrera: So moved.

Trevino: Second.

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

MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY.

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