MESILLA VALLEY METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION
POLICY COMMITTEE

The following are minutes for the meeting of the Mesilla Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) Policy Committee which was held January 10, 2018 at 1:00 p.m. in Commission Chambers at Dona Ana County Government Building, 845 Motel Blvd., Las Cruces, New Mexico.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mayor Nora Barraza (Town of Mesilla) (arrived 1:15)
Trent Doolittle (NMDOT)
Councillor Jack Eakman (CLC)
Trustee Linda Flores (Town of Mesilla)
Councillor Gill Sorg (CLC)
Commissioner John Vasquez (DAC)

MEMBERS ABSENT: Commissioner Benjamin Rawson (DAC)
Commissioner Isabella Solis (DAC)
Councillor Gabriel Vasquez (CLC)

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

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

1. CALL TO ORDER / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE (1:04 PM)

Flores: Okay I'm going to call this meeting to order because it's 1:00 and do you want to establish a quorum? You just told me there is a quorum but.

Murphy: There is a quorum. You want me to do a roll call?

Flores: Okay.

Murphy: Okay. Councillor Sorg.

Sorg: Here.

Murphy: Mr. Doolittle.

Doolittle: Here.

Murphy: Councillor Eakman.

Eakman: Here.
Murphy: Commissioner Vasquez.

Vasquez: Here.

Murphy: And Trustee Flores.

Flores: Here. Okay so we'll start with the Pledge of Allegiance.

ALL STAND FOR THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

Murphy: And Madam Chair I guess before you get into it, staff has one change to the agenda. Under Action Item 7.1 there is a typo, it should read "The Resolution Certifying Compliance with the Open Meetings Act for the 2018 Calendar Year" rather than the 2017. So like to keep that on consent but acknowledge that that change needs to be made.

Flores: All right. So can we do a friendly amendment when that comes up, or is this a friendly amendment.

Murphy: I think that would be the friendly, before we get into the consent agenda if we could do that.

Flores: Okay.

2. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Flores: All right. So the next thing on the agenda is the election of officers and I ...

Eakman: Madam Chair. I'm prepared to make a nomination.

Flores: You are?

Eakman: Yes.

Flores: Well I just kind of wanted to make a statement about that. I just feel like attendance is very important and we've had a meeting where we had to cancel the meeting because we did not have a quorum and we have a history, it's not written in our rules but basically we have a history of sharing, or taking turns with this position. However, our Vice-Chair has not made even half of the meetings. So I am not inclined to support a nomination for the Vice-Chair although I've seen him in other capacities. I don't know what his reasons were for not coming, competent, I have nothing personal against him, but that's just my view. So not saying anything else. I'll just leave it open for nominations. Go ahead.
Eakman: Thank you Madam Chair. I wish to nominate Commissioner Solis to be the Chair. I believe she has an excellent attendance record with the MPO and she always seems interested. And I think it probably is the Dona Ana County's turn since we skipped them last year, so I would make that nomination for ...  

Sorg: I'll second that.  

Eakman: Commissioner Solis.  

Flores: So we have a first and a second. However, I actually just want to make this comment and put it out there. I spoke to Commissioner Solis and basically at the end of the last meeting and told her how I felt about that, said, "You know this is basically the County's turn and so if you want to talk to Commissioner Rawson, I think you both have shown up for more meetings, and kind of decide between the two if either one of you would like to take that," she came back and just told me she wasn't interested and she didn't say anything about Rawson. So I don't know.  

Vasquez: Madam Chair.  

Flores: Commissioner Vasquez.  

Vasquez: I was wondering, there has been a rule where it switches back and forth. Is there a way we could suspend that rule and just not, no?  

Flores: No, it's not a rule. I just want a clarification ...  

Vasquez: It's a courtesy?  

Flores: From staff. It's just been a custom, I think.  

Murphy: It is. Thank you Madam Chair. It is not written in the bylaws that the chairmanship, the Chair rotates. It's been a historical practice that's predated my time at the MPO and it's completely up to this Committee if you'd like to suspend it.  

Flores: Okay.  

Murphy: The rules would allow it.  

Flores: All right. So ...  

Eakman: Madam Chair.
Flores: Commissioner Vasquez, did you want to, did you have anything else you wanted to add to that or thoughts?

Vasquez: No. I would like to suspend it and if we're up for nominations I'd like to see if you would be interested in continuing on as Chair, Ms. Flores.

Flores: No, I would not because I'm not running for this next election so it really wouldn't do us any good for me to be the Chair so, but thank you. Councillor.

Eakman: Madam Chair. Based on your previous comment I'd like to withdraw the nomination of Commissioner Solis.

Flores: Okay.

Sorg: I'll withdraw the second, yes.

Flores: Okay. And so actually I had planned on nominating Commissioner Rawson but he's not here to ask him how he feels about that. So I'm thinking maybe, and I'm looking at you. You have, Councillor Eakman has been to ... I don't know of any meetings that you missed unless you had to be at another meeting that you told us about. I'm sure if you've missed any they've been very rare and you've been very interested in the process and very committed. So I would like to nominate you to be Chair and maybe, because Commissioner Rawson isn't here to ask, maybe Vice-Chair, might feel a little more comfortable doing that. So I guess one seat at a time, right. So I'd like to nominate you for Chair in this case.

Eakman: I think that's quite sinister on your part.

Sorg: I second that sinister remark.

Eakman: I would accept as long as you understand I will miss the March meeting.

Flores: Okay.

Eakman: So the Vice-Chair would have to take over at the March meeting.

Flores: We don't have a March meeting, do we?

Murphy: No.

Flores: Okay.

Eakman: Madam Chair. I will not be absent for the March meeting. Thank you.
Flores: Okay so I have a first and a second. Do I have any further discussion?
Okay. Do we want to take a roll call vote?

Murphy: Okay. Councillor Sorg.

Sorg: Yes.

Murphy: Mr. Doolittle.

Doolittle: Yes.

Murphy: Councillor Eakman.

Eakman: Yes.

Murphy: Commissioner Vasquez.

Vasquez: Yes.

Murphy: Madam Chair.

Flores: Yes. Okay. So do we switch now or do we go ahead and go on with the Vice-Chair?

Murphy: I think we usually finish the whole round and then turn over the gavel.

Flores: Okay. So then for Vice-Chair, do I have any nominations?

Sorg: Since we're going against our traditions here, may I suggest we, may I nominate Trent Doolittle as the Vice-Chair?

Flores: Mr. Doolittle, you have any thoughts?

Doolittle: Madam Chair, Councillor Sorg. I appreciate the confidence, I guess. But just based on my position and the way we handle funding and it's temporarily been declined by the DOT as an engineer, so I would stay the course and follow tradition and decline that nomination. Although I do appreciate it, I really do.

Flores: Okay.

Eakman: Then Madam Chair I would nominate Commissioner Rawson based on his acceptance.

Flores: Okay.
Vasquez: Second.

Flores: Okay then I'm a little more comfortable kind of having him not be here and then vote him in for Vice-Chair and he's been to the meetings and he definitely is very competent. So you did the second. So shall we have a roll call vote?

Murphy: Okay. Councillor Sorg.

Sorg: I need to know what I'm voting on.

Murphy: You're voting on Commissioner Rawson for Vice-Chair.

Vasquez: Provided he accepts.

Flores: Well if we vote on it now, whether he accepts or not, I guess he could come back to the meeting and say he really, and we could always change his position, right?

Murphy: He could resign and we could do a new election for Vice-Chair.

Flores: So that could be an option.

Murphy: So Councillor Sorg.

Sorg: Okay, yes.

Murphy: Mr. Doolittle.

Doolittle: Yes.

Murphy: Councillor Eakman.

Eakman: Yes.

Murphy: Commissioner Vasquez.

Vasquez: Yes.

Murphy: And Trustee Flores.

Flores: Yes. Okay. So are we turning this over now?

Eakman: SPEAKING WITH MICROPHONE TURNED OFF.
Flores: Do we have any, is there a problem with me completing the meeting today?

Murphy: I don't think there's any rule one way or the other.

Flores: Don't think so? All right.

3. CONFLICT OF INTEREST INQUIRY

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

Sorg: None.

Eakman: None.

Flores: Okay. I'm seeing a lot of head shaking now, as nobody looking like they have one.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

Flores: So we'll go ahead and move on to public comment. Anyone here from the public that would like to make a comment? Okay. Not seeing anyone.

5. CONSENT AGENDA *

Flores: We'll move on to the consent agenda and I'll just remind people that that resolution, the date was made in error.

Sorg: 2018 instead of '17?

Flores: Right.

Sorg: Got it.

Eakman: Move approval of the consent agenda.

Sorg: I'll second that.

Flores: Okay. So everyone in favor of the consent agenda, okay. We'll need a roll call.

Murphy: Okay. Councillor Sorg.
Sorg: Yes.

Murphy: Mr. Doolittle.

Doolittle: Yes.

Murphy: Councillor Eakman.

Eakman: Yes.

Murphy: Commissioner Vasquez.

Vasquez: Yes.

Murphy: Trustee Flores.

Flores: Yes. Okay.

MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

6. * APPROVAL OF MINUTES

6.1 * December 13, 2017

- VOTED ON VIA THE CONSENT AGENDA

7. ACTION ITEMS

7.1 *Resolution 18-01: A Resolution Certifying Compliance with the Open Meetings Act for the 2018 Calendar Year by the Mesilla Valley MPO

Flores: So then we'll move on to action items and we already did 7.1, right?

- VOTED ON VIA THE CONSENT AGENDA

7.2 Resolution 18-02: A Resolution Urging MPO members to adopt NACTO design standards

Flores: So we're moving on to 7.2, Resolution 18-02: A Resolution Urging the MPO members to adopt NACTO design standards. So do we have discussion on that?

Sorg: Move to approve.

Eakman: Second, so that I can discuss.
Flores: Okay.

Murphy: Okay. Madam Chair, Members of the Committee. As you recall, back in September Mr. McAdams gave an in-depth presentation on this subject. Because of the weight of items on the calendar, since then we'd not brought it back until just now. What this is, is we're asking you to vote for a resolution which as the MPO you'll be saying to the City of Las Cruces, Dona Ana County, and the Town of Mesilla is that, "We recommend that you somehow endorse these standards to use in your development and street reconstruction practices." It does not ask them to replace their current standards that they have in place, it's just asking to really put another tool into the toolbox.

This item came out through the Bicycle and Pedestrian Facilities Advisory Committee. They felt very strongly that we move forward with this to allow the governments in the Mesilla Valley these additional standards to hopefully increase the viability of bicycling as a transportation in the Mesilla Valley. It also meets with a goal in the Transport 2040 which is our MTP and that encourage walking and biking to create safe and healthy communities. This guide is closely related to the AASHTO standards which is the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials. However, the NACTO presents itself as with a more urbanized slant, that in denser places it's more applicable than AASHTO, which they feel has a kind of a rural and highway bias towards it. They feel that by allowing these standards to be enacted within our communities, we'll be able to create safer streets by slowing traffic and they have various tools in which to accomplish that. The BPAC recommended that you all approve this resolution at their July meeting and the Technical Advisory Committee recommended that we approve this resolution in their August meeting. Just kind of one final word; the background is based on cities' experiences with developing standards for bicycle facilities from around the world. Again, it is really primarily for more urban environments, which we certainly deal in in our central areas of population. It is allowed by the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices, the Federal Highway Administration officially supports use of this guide and guide treatments are used around the country and the world. So with that staff asks that you approve this resolution and will allow us to work with staff members at your governments to encourage their inclusion of these guidelines within their day-to-day practices.

Flores: Okay. So do you have any more discussion from ...

Sorg: Madam Chair.

Flores: Councillor Sorg.
Sorg: Yes. Can you tell us, could you go back one slide? Demonstrate what a
diversion chicanes ...

Murphy: Chicane.

Sorg: Chains?

Murphy: Chicane.

Sorg: Chicanes are. That's what I'm looking for, examples. Would you run
through all those examples for us rather rapidly?

Murphy: Okay. I'm going to kind of jump around. On the photo on your right's
going to show a diversion; it pushes the curb-line out into the center of the
street. It causes the traffic, and this is particularly on residential streets, to
narrow, not allowing two cars to pass at one, that they show courtesy, wait
for one another. A chicane is kind of the same thing with the pushed-out
curb except it's going to alternate on either side of the street as you move
down the street. So kind of puts a little meander within to the travel path.
A buffered bike lane basically, and we have examples of this on Dripping
Springs and on Alameda north of Picacho, and you just provide some
extra space between the bike lane and the travel lane, provide a little
margin of safety, sort of a buffer of safety between bicycles traveling and
automobile traffic. Shown on the right's a traffic circle, more commonly
seen in residential areas. Roundabout, I think this group is very familiar
with, when you have two major streets coming together. Other forms of
diversion where they'd allow cycles to travel straight through but they
prohibit right-in, right-out traffic or automobile traffic from going. I'm trying
to think of if we have any examples of that. And Dr. McAdams'
presentation in September had a lot more information on that. I just kind
of pared it down hoping that everyone had remembered it.

Sorg: That's good. But one question. Would it include painted bike lanes like
the green lane you see there?

Murphy: Yes it would. It has a quite extensive toolbox of treatments to use on the
roadways and we feel that by giving these to your engineers they can do a
lot more with making a safer cycling environment.

Sorg: So this would only apply to the MPO roadways and not necessarily to the
local Mesilla or Las Cruces streets?

Murphy: If they had adopted it they would be free to use it where they saw fit.

Sorg: For those who missed the luncheon yesterday for the Mesilla Valley
Economic Development Alliance, a gentleman from Mexico came and
described their new city, which is across the border from Santa Teresa. And I couldn't help but notice many of the things that we're talking about here they're going to incorporate into the, and I'm going to say it wrong, San Jeronimo new city. That's just south of the border there. And I was quite impressed with all the smart growth and new urbanism, which includes this kind of work, that they're doing down there. So this is right in line with what is happening all over the country and the world. I'm done.

Eakman: Madam Chair. If I might.

Flores: Go ahead.

Eakman: Mr. Murphy, just to talk philosophy and implementation for a little bit, and use the example of the City. We're now in preparation for our next budget which will start July 1 and our Capital Improvement Program has a five-year cycle and we're already talking about street projects in that five years from now, and already setting some estimates on what they were cost. And using the City as an example, if we were to adopt this today, we can't expect, if the City was to adopt this perhaps in March, we couldn't expect them to start implementing this until some future cycle years hence. And so what is the expectation of the people who are recommending this to the MPO today?

Murphy: Madam Chair, Councillor Eakman. I think the expectation is that by having it in at this point those future decisions will be better made. I'm certain they would've preferred that we had adopted it five years ago but, you know in 2013 when FHWA came down with their recommendation of it. That being said, I think probably one of the larger things is, and MPO staff is in on review for development proposals within both the City and the County, is sometimes a developer will come in, want to propose some treatments like this on some roadways they're building, and they would have to go, under current conditions in order to do this they'd have to go through a variance process and have some added expense and delay. I think that the major benefit would be we would take away that added expense and delay when there's a subdivision or master plan area's coming in hoping to do something of this. And as Councillor Sorg pointed out, the new City of San Jeronimo is developing in that manner and the hope would be that we would have areas of our MPO that could develop in a likewise fashion, and then as we move on through time it'll be done by the public sector as well through the CIP process.

Eakman: Here's where I'm coming from. Will the audience for this be okay with allowing lead time for the entities we're recommending this to, to incorporate this into their plans?

Murphy: I think the primary audience would be the MPO's BPAC who ...
Flores: And the TAC.

Murphy: Who urged us to move forward. I think most of the members on there have been involved for a long time and they do understand that there's a process and there's a design time and that there would be a lag. I think they'd be happy that it does move forward and they're not expecting to have everything change overnight.

Flores: Okay. I just want to make a comment on, I know for our TAC we have Debbie Lucero who basically is our public works person so I'm very comfortable that this has the recommendation of the TAC because I know she was our representative as far as Mesilla is concerned. So you know she would have that in mind. I just want to comment that I see Mayor Barraza is here and I didn't notice when she came in the room. She snuck in. So I just want to note that for the record, that Mayor Barraza is here and pass this down for her to sign. Thank you. We have any other comments?

Sorg: Madam Chair.

Flores: Councillor Sorg.

Sorg: Thank you. So I have further questions. So if we pass this it would apply to the City of Las Cruces, the Town of Mesilla, and the County. Does this force those three entities to put these guidelines into their planning for those three local governments?

Murphy: Councillor Sorg. It does not. It does not force them. If you pass this resolution really what you're doing is directing staff to more forcefully advocate for your jurisdiction to adopt this.

Sorg: Okay. Would each jurisdiction have to pass another resolution or ordinance adopting these guidelines in addition to this one?

Murphy: Yes. I believe they would.

Sorg: Okay. That's good to know. I'll just make one more comment too. When it comes to traffic calming, we are in desperate need of traffic calming. More tools to do that is very very important. If there's one complaint I get from constituents, not only in my district but from across the City, is that the traffic speeds too much. I'll simply put it that way. So I'm wholeheartedly in favor of all the tools we can possibly get to do traffic calming. Thank you Madam Chair.

Flores: Anyone else?
Vasquez: Madam Chair.

Flores: Well I heard Mr. Doolittle first so then we'll go with Commissioner Vasquez. So Mr. Doolittle.

Doolittle: Thank you Madam Chair. I just want to expand a little bit on what Councillor Sorg said. So if you read the very end it says that the Policy Committee recommends that all appropriate implementing agencies adopt this guide. So it's kind of what Tom said, is we're just recommending. From an engineering perspective, I still think there's a responsibility of each entity and their engineering staff or consultants to design this per the current standards. So the question was whether we as a board or staff can enforce this or require the entities to do it. In my mind the answer is "no" because you still have to use engineering judgment and standards and designs and that type of criteria. So I agree with what Tom said. It's just a recommendation and we as engineers and even as a department should be looking at these anyway. But design standards are going to govern regardless.

Flores: Okay. Commissioner Vasquez.

Vasquez: Madam Chair. I just want to kind of support what Councilman Sorg had said. One of the most common complaints I get is speed. I wish there would've been something that addressed speed humps in here. I didn't see it. But regardless, I do understand this is nothing more than recommendation so I can support this.

Flores: Okay. I just want to make a comment. I had some discussion with our Fire Chief about speed humps because certain people in my neighborhood wanted those put in and it sounded like a good idea to me. I had small children at the time and we had no sidewalks where I live. But after speaking with the Chief he gave me a lot of information and researching it, there's a lot of damage to vehicles and lawsuits and his main concern, of course public safety's always a concern, is that slows them down when they're going out for an emergency. If you look at your reports you'll see that most calls for emergencies are basically health issues, people coming out for medical emergencies. It's not really fire. So anyway, that's my little comment on that. I do like this street narrowing and chicanes. I remember seeing that, I don't know if Councillor Sorg was there when they had the little thing at a hotel and that we were talking about possibilities for El Paseo. Think it was El Paseo. And they were just talking about things on neighborhoods and ...
Flores: Community design standards ...

Sorg: Several different kinds of streets.

Flores: But this is like eight years ago so I don't know.

Sorg: Okay. Yeah.

Flores: I don't know, but anyway I like the way they make the street look better and at the same make you slow down without feeling too ...

Sorg: I could add one more thing too. And I'll ask Mr. Murphy to help with this answer or this point. At some time ago, and I think I did read the actual resolution, the City of Las Cruces has dropped the practice of putting speed bumps into our City streets.

Flores: Yeah.

Sorg: For the reasons you outlined just now, and so we don't do it in the City, but there are so many other tools we can use. And so if Mr. Murphy can add something to that I'd appreciate it. If not, that's fine too. Thank you Madam Chair.

Murphy: I heard the same thing but I don't recall when that practice was dropped.

Flores: Okay. All right. So Mayor Barraza. Did you have something you want to say?

Barraza: Thank you Madam Chair. I guess I'm thinking of the Town of Mesilla and the small streets that we have. Our streets were originally set up for horse and buggy and the size has not increased, I can guarantee you that. So then I think the highest speed limit we have in the Town of Mesilla is 35 miles an hour which is on Highway 28, and that it's all 35 and under. So, but it still doesn't calm the traffic. Even as many speed limit signs that we have. But I guess, I think Commissioner Vasquez said it is a recommendation and it would be hard for the Town of Mesilla to implement the guide. I don't foresee any new streets really coming into the Town of Mesilla even though we have had a significant increase in terms of bicyclists coming into our community and our community being more bicycle-friendly, walkers, we have walkers, dogs, that has really increased in the Town of Mesilla. So I like the idea that it's a recommendation and it's not something really we can implement in the Town of Mesilla on most of our streets. So that's my comment. Thank you.
Flores: Okay. So do we have any more comments? Seeing none, do we want to have a vote, a roll call vote?

Murphy: Okay. Councillor Sorg.

Sorg: Yes.

Murphy: Mr. Doolittle.

Doolittle: Yes.

Murphy: Councillor Eakman.

Eakman: Yes.

Murphy: Commissioner Vasquez.

Vasquez: Yes.

Murphy: Mayor Barraza.

Barraza: Yes.

Murphy: And Trustee Flores.

Flores: Yes.

MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

8. DISCUSSION ITEMS

8.1 Committee Training: Transit data collection

Flores: Okay. So we'll move on to discussion items and 8.1 Committee Training: Transit data collection.

Murphy: And I'll turn this over to Michael McAdams. He'll give a presentation on the MPO's efforts on collecting transit passenger data.

McAdams: Good afternoon Madam Chair and Members of the Committee. I'm very pleased to talk about another data-gathering effort. We would like as staff and I'm sure you appreciate that we want to encourage data-driven decisions and today I'd like to talk about transit data collection. Collecting accurate data on passenger using public transportation is crucial to the operation and short-range planning. How a transit system is performing indicates sufficiency and effectiveness. The FTA, the Federal Transit
Administration in MAP-21 set forth procedure for establishing performance measures. The performance measures are in process of being refined further and to government scale too. Presently RoadRUNNER Transit is required to report basic data for the National Transit Database. That's a database that's mandated by the FTA. With the advent of automatic vehicle location and automatic passenger counters, RoadRUNNER Transit's able to make more detailed, data-driven decisions.

And just an illustration for those that may be aware of how transit works or fixed-route transit works and those who can't, both transit fixed-route routes and stops are established to serve the origins and the destinations for work, shopping, etc. mainly from home to users in a time period which is optimal for both the system and its users. It's usually walking, bikes, or other modes of travel to get to and from the stops which are convenient for them. Ridership by route and by stop represent essential data for operation and short-term planning, and you see the illustration sort of looking at where people, looking at the origins of their trips, where houses are generally, and they get there by walking, bicycles, and we have bike racks on our buses. Then they come to a bus stop and they go to various destinations: Schools, shopping, medical facilities, grocery shopping, etc. and of course they return from those using bus stops too and traveling back by bike or by walking to their residence.

Here is our present bus route system for RoadRUNNER. It includes major destinations and we're going to, in the process of revising some of these routes in the near future, and what we tried to do if you remember the last Short-Range Transit Plan, we tried to connect the origins and destinations of all the users and the best coverage area too. So you can see the illustration. I'm sure you've seen this other places too, and what we're doing is looking at the bus stops and where people, how many people are using the bus stops.

First let me show one thing that enables very good data collection of the location and for passenger counting is that RoadRUNNER's automatic vehicle location system uses the Global Positioning System to collect the location of all buses in operation in real time. This provides passenger and operational information and it's recorded for further analysis. It works in tandem with the automated passenger counting equipment. And using the Global Positioning System which is a series of satellites, it can locate the buses because they have sensors. Then that accurate location goes to look at real-time information for monitoring of the vehicles. It can be monitored, like if there was a bus that was delayed which could indicate an incident of some sort, then that data is recorded and stored. In addition that data's transmitted to the passengers for their information. I'll go and the next slide will illustrate this.

Working with our vendor which is Clever Devices we have the AVL system provides passengers a view of the selected buses by route and the arrival bus at its selected stop. The information can be accessed through RoadRUNNER's website, or the City's website under
RoadRUNNER Transit Bus Tracker and it's an application and it can be located at this website. All you really have to do is just Google search it, you know, City of Las Cruces, RoadRUNNER, and it will direct you to the app or you can just copy that down too. On the left-hand side you'll see, if you open up the app you will see where the buses are located. You can go back five buses, you can see all of them, you can see exactly in real time where they're located. And if you're a user, and this is also common for many bus systems, you can say, "Here's my stop, I told you Dona Ana County Government Building, and when is the next bus going to come to my location?" So you can, "I'm running late," or "I'm too early," or whatever and you look, maybe you missed it and when the next bus will be. So these are very accurate, I mean very good for the user and it's something you don't have to worry where, "I'm too late," or "I'm too early" type of situation.

What we do is work with the, for the automatic passenger counting we work with the AVO system and the automatic passenger counters are installed on two fixed-route buses which are rotated on all routes so we get an even sampling on all routes. These units are located at the front and the rear of the doors and they monitor the exiting and entering of passengers no matter which door they go through because it uses a motion detector, or video motion detector system. And these of course as I said before, integrated with the AVO system.

What we do is we take this data that it's really megadata, there's a lot of data being generated and all by location of the bus, time the bus stops, regardless of if they pick up passengers we record this information. But with the APCs, every day they are downloaded, or the data's downloaded to a server and analyzed through data managing software, it's called Clever Devices Ridecheck Plus and the screenshots illustrate how this data's segmented and summarized. So we, if you use this software, we go and say, "What kind of date do we want? Do we need like a month or a quarter, etc." and you'll capture all that data. Then we say, "We'll going to analyze by route," and for the first sites is route information, ridership, boarding and riding by route, the passenger miles which is every mile a passenger goes is one passenger mile. So if you have two passengers it's two passenger miles. And then other kind of data and looking at loadings as far as what was the maximum loading on that route, if you go 32 that's pretty much full capacity. So some of the routes we have, or on some periods are at full capacity. In the other side we can go really, drill down very deep. We can look at, I can look at days if I have enough data on stops, this is looking at a quarter, how many people get off and on at certain stops per routes. I can, it's like 12 pages. It's very much detailed to look at which stops are being used more than others. That would indicate like maybe we need a shelter there if there's not a shelter and other things like maybe eliminate a stop or putting more stops. What these are also leading to is not just using the day-to-day stuff and operations. It's really leading to performance indicators, to where they
say, "How are these systems working? Is the system working all right?"
and specifically routes, how routes are performing. And these are the
most commonly used indicators: Passengers per trip, passengers per
hour, passenger miles per trip, and these are common across the industry.
These are common to use as performance indicators and indicate, I won't
go into detail but it's illustrated, indicate when one route is performing well
and some of these indicators, and one's not working correctly or working
very well as far as the average. And so if you look at that, what we'll do is
we don't make changes right away but say, "Maybe we need to put some
more bus stops or maybe we need a marking, or maybe we need to
review the routes."

In conclusion, the APC and the AVL systems provide data that are
enabled to both general and specific analysis of RoadRUNNER Transit.
The two systems enable a level of analysis previously done manually and
not to the same level of specificity. The use of data in operations planning
and reporting is providing, be valuable in day-to-day operations for the
RoadRUNNER Transit and the MPO. In the future the MPO will be using
the APC data to analyze the results of the revision of routes which will be
coming up pretty soon and the upcoming Short-Range Transit Plan. If
there are any questions I'll be glad to answer them.

Flores: Councilor Eakman.

Eakman: Thank you Madam Chair. Wondering if this data is shared with the MPO
from time to time, perhaps semiannually or quarterly or, for monitoring
purposes, for policy decisions. Will that be shared with the MPO in some
format?

McAdams: Yes Councilor Eakman. That's what we really want, to share it on the
different levels. We'd like to put it on the website and also we'll be sharing
it with RoadRUNNER Transit as well. We've already shared it already, but
yes. Our intent to share it to the public and to anybody that could use this.

Eakman: As a follow-up, how many other transit organizations do we have under
this MPO?

McAdams: We have two that we assist. They're not under, we assist RoadRUNNER
Transit and also the Regional Transit District. They are not using
automatic passenger counters, their system's so small, they basically
monitor as people get on and off at bus stops. So they've a fairly good
idea about the use of their system. But we'll be offering our services via
the new UPWP, but always we're in cooperation with the RTD and with
RoadRUNNER Transit to provide our services and do anything we can to
assist them.
Eakman: A couple of the members of board of this MPO serve on the SCRTD board and the SCRTD probably needs as much advice and counsel as any organization in the area right now. So I would hope that monitoring would be welcomed because the SCRTD is serving a needy population that we probably should be checking effectiveness, efficiency, things of that nature to make sure that everything is being done to give transit services to the people in need. So that would be my comment. Thank you.

Flores: Thank you. Councillor Sorg.

Sorg: Thank you Madam Chair. There's going to be a Las Cruces Transit Advisory Board meeting next week. Are you going to present this information there too?

McAdams: Yes Councillor.

Sorg: Thank you.

McAdams: I will be, and we anticipated this would be sort of, I'll sort of use this presentation, probably just handouts, and discuss it with the TAB. And yes, I will do it in the next meeting.

Sorg: And it will have the data?

McAdams: I will, some of the data I have for about three quarters ...

Sorg: Okay.

McAdams: I've analyzed and I can give a summary at that point. I think ...

Sorg: Okay.

McAdams: I'll have something like that for that.

Sorg: Okay. Thank you.

McAdams: You're welcome.

Sorg: Thank you Madam Chair.

Flores: Anyone else? Any further comments? Okay. Seeing none we'll move on to, thank you very much.

McAdams: Thank you.

8.2 NMDOT update
Flores: And we'll move on to 8.2, New Mexico DOT update. Mr. Doolittle.

Doolittle: Thank you Madam Chair. I only have two projects I want to give an update on this month. One is currently under construction of course: The North Main/Spitz/Three Crosses. We continue to work on that intersection. We've moved traffic now so basically we're about halfway through with a majority of the project. All of the utility work for the most part is finished. It's actually moving along pretty well. We got a little bit behind schedule. Contractor brought in some additional resources and is now caught up. Looks like we're going to be completed with that project late spring, March or April, which is on schedule. So that's quite the change from the previous North Main project that we had. So we've been real happy. I'll continue to give updates as we proceed on that project but it's actually going pretty well.

The other one I wanted to give an update on was Valley Drive. We rebid that project in December. Bids still came in substantially high, about 40% over engineer's estimate. We're working with City staff to determine if they're able and willing to fund the additional cost tied to the utility work for the City. Currently under bid review but I will probably have an update on project award, rebid, whatever the final decision is at our February meeting but I'm hoping we find a way to build that project. It's much-needed. I think there's some benefit both to the Department and the City just because of the utility work, additional drainage, but I'll have more update come February.

And those are the only two I have. Everything else in the area we are finished. We finished the safety project over the hill at Organ. We finished Tortugas and Thorpe which were capital outlay projects. We finished the US-70/17th Street signals just right down the road. So we're completing a lot of work here in town. If there's any questions I would be happy to answer them.


9. COMMITTEE AND STAFF COMMENTS

Flores: We'll move on to Committee and staff comments. Anyone from the Committee would like to make a comment? Chair Eakman.

Eakman: A question if I could, Tom. Is Santa Teresa up to the border crossing a part of this MPO's jurisdiction?

Murphy: No it's not. It's part of the El Paso MPO area.
Eakman: And so our access from Dona Ana County and the City of Las Cruces and Mesilla is not a part of the responsibility of this MPO? El Paso is in charge of the access we have?

Murphy: For the border crossing?

Eakman: Up to the border crossing, yes.

Murphy: Our MPO boundary extends essentially just south of the community of Berino. Shortly after community of Berino get into, as designated by the Census Bureau, the El Paso Urbanized Area. So anything south of that is going to be part of the El Paso MPO's planning responsibilities.

Eakman: I've looked at those maps before and I'm scratching my head. I don't think anyone has more economic interest in the growth and development of Santa Teresa than those of us who are paying taxes to see Santa Teresa grow. And so I'm, it's a quandary for me of how that is working based on population. So I don't know if anyone else has a discussion item on this or not, but I think it's very much in this MPO's interest to be at least commenting and advising on that for the benefit of this MPO district.

Murphy: We do have a Memorandum of Understanding in place with the El Paso MPO giving that we do have congruent boundaries, or adjacent boundaries and we are offered the opportunity to comment on all plans that they develop, as likewise they can offer comment on all plans that we develop. Meanwhile there is a member of Dona Ana County's government on the El Paso Policy Board, as is Mr. Doolittle on the El Paso Policy Board. I think at least from a staff level, I think our working relationship with the El Paso MPO staff is excellent and we have good communication between the two.

Eakman: If I could follow up ...

Barraza: No, go ahead.

Eakman: If I could follow up, is the same member of the MPO for the El Paso district from the County also serve on this MPO, or is there no real line of communication between those persons? My thought is if I myself served on this MPO and another MPO I'd be current. But if I don't serve on them I would not be current. It would most likely be accidental that I'm getting information of what the other MPO has in mind.

Murphy: Usually the southern Commissioner for Dona Ana County serves on that one. I believe currently Mr. McMahon does ...

Barraza: Gonzalez.
Vasquez: Gonzalez.

Baraza: Commissioner Gonzalez.

Murphy: Commissioner Gonzalez is in the seat that usually does, but last I'd heard that the Assistant County Manager, Mr. McMahon was the one actually attending the meetings. But again, that's internal County decisions that I'm not privy to.

Eakman: Just, you're making my point for me. Thank you so much.

Murphy: And we have no control to change it.

Flores: Next it's going to be Mayor Baraza and then Trent. Mr. Doolittle did you just want to make a comment after that? Okay. So Mayor.

Baraza: Thank you Madam Chair. Just, you answered Tom. Some of the response I had was that I knew that Mr. Doolittle serves on the MPO in El Paso and I knew that Dona Ana County had a representative as we have, I know the mayor from Sunland Park serves on the El Paso MPO and I think they have a representative from the City of Anthony also that serves. But I understand sincerely what Councillor Eakman is saying here and I think it would help the MPO I think know what plans they're, with all the publicity that has been coming up in newspaper in terms of economic development, to see what is going on and how we can work hand-in-hand and have maybe someone on this board that can represent the MPO, whether it's you, Tom, or whether it's staff or someone on the board to represent the Mesilla Valley MPO and listen. If nothing else, maybe have a voice over there to see how we can collaborate what's going on between both MPOs.

Flores: Mr. Doolittle.

Doolittle: Thank you Madam Chair. So just to expand a little bit, currently from this MPO board, Dona Ana is indeed the only one and so it's really up to Dona Ana who they choose to submit for representation on the board. Right now the board size is about 30 or 31, something like that, the Policy Board. Mayor Baraza is correct. The ones that she outlined are the ones that represent New Mexico on that board. Adding an additional member, we're actually in the process of going to request in February to add the South Central RTD as a connecting transit provider into El Paso to that board. Executive Committee has met and there is currently discussions about reducing the size of that board. It's very large and sometimes honestly becomes political as opposed to considering urbanized transportation needs, or regional transportation needs. So there is a lot of
discussion tied to board size. I sit on the Executive Committee. I will bring the concerns of this board to Executive Committee to determine if potentially someone from this board could represent this MPO on that Policy Board. There has been a lot of, honestly prior to Dr. Garcia, Dona Ana County didn't represent the County very well through attendance on the board. Dr. Garcia started it. It has been Chuck McMahon at the last few. There are representatives from the Technical Committee here that are represented on the Technical Committee also in the El Paso MPO. So there is at least in the technical and engineering field some representation across the MPO boundaries. Of course with me sitting on the board and recognizing the need to represent Dona Ana County, we try to continue those coordinations. Andrew was participating, or at least showing up for some of those meetings. Now he's watching them, it's televised so he's able to participate or at least see what's going on that way. The other point I would like to make is we provide a small amount of funding to the El Paso MPO staff, just based on population and what they do for us. I will tell you that they probably provide service tenfold to our local communities the money that we provide them. They go above and beyond to coordinate with Dona Ana County, Anthony, and Sunland Park. We are getting our money's worth from the El Paso MPO staff. I agree with you that we need to keep coordinating that discussion between the two boundaries but in my mind, I understand your concern, but I think given the circumstances, Dona Ana County's being represented very well out of El Paso MPO. We probably need to coordinate a little bit more but in my mind it's working pretty well. I think it'll work better if we can shrink the size of the board, think more regionally, not just within the El Paso MPO but also crossing that boundary. But I think we're getting our money's worth and short of a few minor improvements I think they're doing a good job for us, and I think Tom and his staff do a good job coordinating back and forth as well.

Flores: Thank you. Anyone else? Other comments from the committee?

Sorg: I have another comment. I've got a question for staff. I think it was last month or the month before, staff shared some traffic data with us and I asked about whether or not you share that with the LCPD and I was wondering if that's happened yet.

Murphy: We've not done that yet.

Sorg: Okay.

Murphy: We've had our interns who've been inputting that data into the GIS system so we're hoping to have that ready for dissemination here shortly.

Sorg: Okay. Thank you. Thank you Madam Chair.
Flores: So any other Committee comments? Seeing none we'll move it to staff comments. Any staff comments?

Murphy: No comments.

Flores: Okay.

10. PUBLIC COMMENT

Flores: So we'll move to public comment. Is there anyone from the public that would like to make a comment? Seeing none.

11. ADJOURNMENT (2:00 PM)

Flores: We'll move to adjournment.

Sorg: Move to adjourn.

Flores: Okay.

Eakman: Second.

Flores: All right. This meeting's adjourned. Thank you.

Chairperson