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 June 7, 2018 at 4:00 p.m. in Commission Chambers at Dona Ana County Government Building, 845 Motel Blvd., Las Cruces, New Mexico.

in the City of Las Cruces Council Chambers, 700 N. Main, Las Cruces, New Mexico.

MEMBERS PRESENT:  
David Armijo (SCRTD)  
Mike Bartholomew (CLC Transit) (arrived 4:09)  
Bill Childress (BLM)  
Michael Garza (DAC Flood Commission)  
Dale Harrell (NMSU)  
Jolene Herrera (NMDOT)  
Harold Love (NMDOT)  
Hector Tarrazas (CLC)  
Jennifer Yoder (CLC)

MEMBERS ABSENT:  
Sean Barham (LCPS)  
Ana Donohue (EBID)  
Debbie Lujan (Town of Mesilla)  
Rene Molina (DAC Eng.)  
Luis Marmolejo (DAC Planning)  
Larry Shannon (Town of Mesilla)

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

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

1. CALL TO ORDER (4:00 PM)

Love: Okay, it's a little after 4:00 so we'll go ahead and get started with the June 7th meeting of the Mesilla Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization Technical Advisory Committee meeting. We'll start with roll call starting with my far left.

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

Terrazas: Hector Terrazas, City of Las Cruces Traffic Engineer.

Herrera: Jolene Herrera, NMDOT Planning.
Garza: Michael Garza, Dona Ana County Flood Commission.

Yoder: Jennifer Yoder, City of Las Cruces Public Works.

Childress: Bill Childress, Bureau of Land Management.

Armijo: David Armijo, South Central Regional Transit District.

Harrell: Dale Harrell, New Mexico State University.

Love: And I'm Harold Love, NMDOT.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Love: Next item approval of the agenda. Looking for a motion. Are there any amendments to the agenda, corrections? Go ahead.

Murphy: Staff would like to pull item 5.1.

Love: Any other?

Herrera: Move to approve as amended.

Love: Do I hear a second?

Garza: Second.

Love: All those in favor.

MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY.

Love: Any "nays?"

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

3.1 May 3, 2018

Love: Next item is approval of the minutes. Are there any corrections?

Garza: I just had one correction on page 2 of the minutes, line number 8, it says "Gonzales," I believe that was me speaking so it should read "Garza."

Love: Any other amendments or corrections? Looking for a motion.

Garza: Motion to approve the minutes with that minor change.
Herrera: Second.

Love: All in favor.

MOTION Passes UNANIMOUSLY.

Love: Motion approved.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

Love: Item number four, public comments. Seeing none.

5. DISCUSSION ITEMS

5.1 New Mexico Local Technical Assistance Program
CANCELLED AS PER THE APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

5.2 Roundabout Facility Presentation

Love: We will move to discussion items and we'll drop down to 5.2, roundabout facility presentation.

MICHAEL MCADAMS GAVE HIS PRESENTATION.

Love: I have a question.

McAdams: Yes.

Love: Is the City planning on any more roundabouts in the area?

McAdams: I don't work for the City, I'm not aware of any. I guess the City representative probably tell you that.

Bartholomew: I had a question too. The roundabout near City Hall, are there any standards for how these are designed for larger vehicles like public transit vehicles? Because I know we have difficulty maintaining the lanes going into the roundabout and I know that's a factor for large semi-trucks too because you can definitely see the curb tires on the curb trying to stay in their lane going around that corner.

McAdams: Mr. Chairman, Mr. Bartholomew. As you see with the truck apron is one way to do that, you just widen the area around the circle and that will accommodate large vehicles, trucks and buses included.
Bartholomew: So should there be a standard for how they're designed to accommodate?

McAdams: There are standards of how roundabouts should be designed and that should be through AASHTO or NACTO also has it. There are several sources for that. So I'm not criticizing when I say it would be better if that roundabout at the City was wider and had some accommodation for trucks and wider vehicles.

Love: Any other questions or comments? Thank you.

McAdams: Thank you.

6. COMMITTEE AND STAFF COMMENTS

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

Love: Moving onto item number 6.1, committee comments and staff comments. City of Las Cruces do you have anything?

Yoder: Well Hector can also speak for his side, but from Public Works Department we're still working on the Main Street and we're hoping to bid that within the next six months. We also have the Palmer Subdivision which we're concerned about the conflicts of it maybe with NMDOT and the Valley Drive when they start doing traffic control and shutdown there, that we'd like to make sure is coordinated, but other than that those are the only projects.

Love: Dona Ana County, do we have a representative? Not seeing one. Town of Mesilla, do we have? No. Las Cruces Public Schools. No. RoadRUNNER Transit.

Bartholomew: With RoadRUNNER, in May our City Council approved our Fiscal Year '19 budget which includes funding to extend our weekday service for our core eight routes that we have until 10:30 at night from ending currently at 7:00 at night. We anticipate implementing that sometime in the latter half of this calendar year when we get the staff in place and trained for that. We're also, I think I mentioned it last month too, but we're applying for two different Federal grant sources right now. We're going to be applying for Build Grant for our maintenance and operations center out on Westgate off of Motel Boulevard area. And we're also applying for funding for three additional electric buses under the State of Good Repair Grant which has to be submitted this month I believe. So we're working on those two right now.
Love: Very good. South Central RTD.

Armijo: Thank you. I guess for us we're working on a number of projects. We were able to continue getting some Federal funds from our current 5311 Rural Grant and also for the 5310, we picked up another bus. We're still looking at services that could go north into Sierra County, but given the timeline of the grants and getting the bus and so on and so forth, it might be well into next fiscal year before any of that would occur, but we're working very actively with the members up in Sierra County, we think that's a good possibility that that could happen maybe by mid fiscal year of next year.

In addition to that and those funds, we have shifted a lot of our transportation into Anthony and are now looking more and more of operating our services as kind of a hub there. Our ridership continues to grow, I guess for this fiscal year we're up estimated an extra 10,000 rides from last year, so we're about 160% from last year, we figure about 55-60%, so the numbers are continuing to go up, still a long ways to go. Obviously ridership still kind of low for a small service, but it's a rural service and we have to look at it from that standpoint. I think having more connections going into Sierra and continuing to make connections into El Paso County should be helpful to it in the future.

We're now continuing to expand our summer services, we're actually doing some work with Gadsden School District and through both their Chaparral services and on into Santa Teresa so that that'll be interesting. We actually had one bus last week that we were doing a special service to New Mexico State University that I think we had 35 riders on the bus, so we had a few standees for the first time. We're going to make sure we get the photos of that, ensure that the Commissioners since they wanted to make sure we could provide information on buses that are empty, so we don't have those, but we have some that are full, but we'll go from there. It's an interesting evolution as we move into our second year. No other questions. I think that's my report. Thank you.

Love: Good.

Bartholomew: Mr. Chair. I have one other. Another City staff member reminded me that we are actually having a fare free week this week for around the dumps the pump week that American Public Transit Association has and that's going to be the week of the 18th, it'll be Monday through Saturday. So if you've never tried RoadRUNNER Transit and want to try it for free, that's a great week to give it a try. And we're going to be having some promotions where we'll be giving out bus passes to customers, have some little stickers for about dumps the pump and everything we'll be passing out as well.

Love: Seeing that we have NMSU in the house, do we have any comments?
DALE HARRELL REPLIED NO OFF MICROPHONE.

Love: Okay.

6.2 NMDOT Projects Update

Love: With that we'll move onto NMDOT project updates.

Herrera: Thank you Mr. Chair. I have one project to report on today that's still actively under construction. It's the Solano/Three Crosses, they're finalizing the last punch list items and we hope to be done with that in the next three to four weeks, probably more like four, but we're hoping for three. So be careful out there, we have some lane drops right now and we'll be shifting traffic control frequently to take care of those items.

The second big project that you're all probably wondering about is Valley Drive. The contractor will start work on that June 25th is what the project manager told me earlier this week. So we're going to start with the intersection of Picacho and Valley Drive, that will be the first phase of the project. I think the contract time is 400 or so days, so it's going to take just over a year to complete the project. We'll be moving in phases going from Picacho towards Avenida de Mesilla. And that's all I have. Are there any questions?

Bartholomew: I had a question on the Picacho/Valley Drive area, is the traffic still going to be maintained through the intersection during this, when it starts on the 25th?

Herrera: Yes, it will be maintained. We'll have barrels and so it will be slow moving but we will not close that intersection.

Bartholomew: Thank you.

Yoder: Is there any way to get the City of Las Cruces a set of your traffic control plans so we can make sure that the people in the subdivision at Picacho and Valley have access between our shutdown roads and yours?

Herrera: Sure. If you give me your card I can give it to our project manager and have him coordinate with you directly, it would easier then maybe, kind of in between

Yoder: Okay. Thank you.

Love: Any other questions?

6.3 MPO Staff Projects Update
Love: We'll move on to MPO staff update.

McAdams: We have several. One is the bike repair station has been installed at the Move-It and we're monitoring right now. There is Facebook and we've had also monthly newsletter about describing that. We're happy and we hope that will be a model for other bike repair stations around the City.

Last week we went to the MPO Quarterly, staff did, and we had update on some of the (inaudible) management. We'll keep you on track and how it's revised and what is necessary for the TAC to do.

We have the TAP projects will be coming up pretty soon, (inaudible) schedules and we'll put those out as soon as possible. Next July there is no meeting for the TAC and the August meeting will be at City Hall for the TAC. I think that's it.

7. PUBLIC COMMENT

Love: Public comment. Seeing none.

8. ADJOURNMENT (4:26 PM)

Love: Looking for a motion to adjourn.

Bartholomew: So moved.

Herrera: Second.

Love: All in favor.

MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY.

Love: We're adjourned.

Chairperson