

**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 December 12, 2018 at 1:00 p.m. in the City of Las Cruces Council Chambers, 700 N. Main, Las Cruces, New Mexico.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Harold Love proxy for Trent Doolittle (NMDOT)
Councillor Jack Eakman (CLC)
Commissioner Kim Hakes (DAC) (arrived 1:04)
Trustee Stephanie Johnson-Burick (Town of Mesilla)
Councillor Gabriel Vasquez (CLC)
Commissioner Benjamin Rawson (DAC) (arrived 1:10)
Commissioner Isabella Solis (DAC)
Councillor Gill Sorg (CLC)

MEMBERS ABSENT: Mayor Nora Barraza (Town of Mesilla)

STAFF PRESENT: Andrew Wray (MPO staff)
Michael McAdams (MPO staff)
Valerie Sherman (MPO staff)

OTHERS PRESENT: Soo Gyu Lee (CLC)
Becky Baum, RC Creations, LLC, Recording Secretary

1. CALL TO ORDER (1:02 PM)

Eakman: Good afternoon members of the Metropolitan Planning Organization Policy Review Committee. I'd like to call this meeting to order and thank everyone for being here this morning.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Eakman: I wonder if you would all join me in the Pledge of Allegiance.

ALL STAND FOR THE PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE.

Eakman: Thank you so much.

3. CONFLICT OF INTEREST INQUIRY

Eakman: I'd like to ask if anyone has a conflict of interest with anything on the agenda today. Would you please declare if you do or you don't?

Vasquez: None.

1 Sorg: None.
2
3 J-Burick: None.
4
5 Solis: None.
6
7 Love: None.
8
9 Eakman: Thank you so much. I've been told that I need to move this meeting along
10 crisply today and so I think we can do our best to do that today.
11
12 **4. PUBLIC COMMENT**
13
14 Eakman: Is there any public comment before we begin with the other business?
15 Any public comment? Hearing none.
16
17 **5. CONSENT AGENDA ***
18
19 Eakman: We have a consent agenda that only includes the approval of minutes. I
20 wonder if there is a motion for that.
21
22 Vasquez: Move to approve.
23
24 Sorg: Second.
25
26 Eakman: It has been moved and approved that we pass the consent agenda.
27 Would you take the roll, please?
28
29 Wray: Yes Mr. Chair. Mr. Love.
30
31 Love: Yes.
32
33 Wray: Commissioner Solis.
34
35 Solis: Yes.
36
37 Wray: Trustee Johnson-Burick.
38
39 J-Burick: Yes.
40
41 Wray: Councilor Vasquez.
42
43 Vasquez: Yes.
44
45 Wray: Councilor Sorg.
46

1 Sorg: Yes.

2
3 Wray: Mr. Chair.

4
5 Eakman: Yes. Thank you.

6
7 Wray: I think Mr. Love didn't think we were going to vote, he was going to vote
8 today.

9
10 Eakman: Mr. Love gets to vote. You're on the record now.

11
12 **6. * APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

13
14 **6.1 * November 14, 2018**

15
16 - VOTED ON VIA THE CONSENT AGENDA

17
18 **7. ACTION ITEMS**

19
20 **7.1 Resolution 18-12: A Resolution Adopting the 2019 Mesilla Valley**
21 **MPO Meeting Calendar**

22
23 Eakman: We have action items coming up, three of them and so Andrew if you
24 would please.

25
26 Wray: Thank you Mr. Chair. This item begins on page 37 of the packet if the
27 Policy Committee would like to follow along there. The Committee will
28 recall that at the November meeting the action item that was on that
29 agenda to set the 2019 Mesilla Valley MPO Meeting Calendar was moved
30 to December. That is the action item that is now before you. There were
31 a number of conflicts that staff had to resolve to ultimately bring before
32 you the calendar that you see displayed on the screen and in your packet.

33 There are a couple of things I do want to highlight. One of the first
34 is, I'm going to use this opportunity to inform this Committee that the New
35 Mexico Department of Transportation has altered the TIP cycle slightly. It
36 is now going to be the practice of this MPO that the BPAC will address TIP
37 amendments in the second month of every quarter. And the TAC and the
38 Policy Committee will address amendments in the final month of every
39 quarter, in the third month.

40 The reason for this is that there was a change in procedure at the
41 NMDOT level. The Transportation Commission no longer reviews the
42 STIP on a quarterly basis. I believe they review it on an annual basis now
43 and DOT felt that it was in the public interest to shift the schedule down
44 the quarter a bit to provide more opportunity for public comment at the
45 beginning of the TIP cycle. This in a way is also very beneficial for this
46 MPO as this Committee is aware, the November meeting this year was

1 very difficult for this MPO to put together. Historically November has been
2 a problem month for this MPO. In fact, citing my own experience, the only
3 meeting that this Board has failed to make quorum on the day of the
4 meeting was a November meeting. So for that reason even though
5 November will continue to be difficult, we were not able to make
6 arrangements with the City of Las Cruces to have use of this Chamber in
7 the first week of November. So the schedule that is before you today is
8 for the standard practice to continue for this Committee to meet in the
9 second week of November, which does open up a potential conflict with
10 the Board of County Commissioners dealing with the Veteran's Day
11 Holiday. But staff felt that there was no other option but then to proceed
12 with scheduling the meeting the second week of November, with there
13 being a little bit less pressure on having that meeting should it become
14 apparent that we will not be able to have it. That being said, the
15 November meeting from the standpoint of kind of the rhythm-and-flow of
16 MPO work will still continue to be important periodically for the purposes of
17 performance measure adoption. So I do ask that Policy Committee
18 Members both now and in the future please do keep that in mind and if at
19 all possible, if it looks like we're not going to be able to make a critical
20 meeting, either in November or any other time of the year, to please
21 appoint a proxy so that we'll be able to get these required decisions made.

22 The last note on the Calendar it was requested of MPO staff to
23 have an eye for the 2019 Dominici Conference. That Conference is
24 scheduled to take place as of right now in the third week of September, so
25 there would be no conflict there.

26 We are asking for action on this item today. We do have the
27 January meeting, it's always historically been the practice, we have the
28 January meeting of the following year scheduled so if for some reason the
29 Policy Committee is uncomfortable with action today, we do have one
30 more month available, but we would absolutely have to take action at that
31 meeting. But staff is asking the Committee to take action today and I'll
32 stand now for any questions.

33
34 Sorg: I'll move to approve this resolution for the schedule of meetings.

35
36 J-Burick: Second.

37
38 Eakman: It has been moved and seconded that we approve the adoption of a
39 resolution on our meeting calendar for 2019.

40
41 Wray: Mr. Chair. I apologize who made the second? I did not catch it. Madam
42 Trustee. Thank you.

43
44 Eakman: It has been moved and seconded, discussion. Welcome Commissioner
45 Hakes. Good to see you today.

1 Hakes: May I speak?
2
3 Eakman: You may.
4
5 Hakes: So the first meeting is January 9th and the first time the Commission
6 meets is January 8th. There are no Committee assignments, there's three
7 new incoming of the five, it's not likely you could have a problem where
8 nobody from the County will make the meeting. That's just a flaw with the
9 schedule.
10
11 Wray: Mr. Chair, if I may.
12
13 Hakes: You've dealt with it before I'm sure.
14
15 Wray: Thank you very much Commissioner. We do appreciate that. Historically
16 I will confess that very issue has come up before. Unfortunately, there
17 really is no means of addressing it because the Board of County
18 Commissioners schedule is what it is for committee appointments and the
19 MPO schedule really is what it is. We do keep an eye on that. I assure
20 you staff will be monitoring that meeting very closely. We hope to be able
21 to make contact with new designees as quickly as possible. We have
22 spoken to some of the incoming Commissioners already, letting them
23 know, so we hope to be able to make quorum in January. We are aware
24 of the prospect that we may not and with that knowledge that's really all
25 that we can do to proceed. But thank you very much Commissioner.
26
27 Eakman: Thank you so much. But that also means we better pass this Calendar
28 today.
29
30 Wray: Yes, please, Mr. Chair.
31
32 Eakman: Very good, any other comments or questions? Would you take the roll
33 please?
34
35 Wray: Yes Mr. Chair. Mr. Love.
36
37 Love: Yes.
38
39 Wray: Commissioner Hakes.
40
41 Hakes: Yes.
42
43 Wray: Commissioner Solis.
44
45 Solis: Yes.
46

1 Wray: Trustee Johnson-Burick.

2
3 J-Burick: Yes.

4
5 Wray: Councilor Vasquez.

6
7 Vasquez: Yes.

8
9 Wray: Councilor Sorg.

10
11 Sorg: Yes.

12
13 Wray: Mr. Chair.

14
15 Eakman: Yes.

16
17 **7.2 Resolution 18-18: A Resolution Endorsing an Application to NMDOT**
18 **for the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) Non-Mandatory**
19 **Open Call for Projects**
20

21 Eakman: And then the next resolution if you would Andrew.

22
23 Wray: Thank you Mr. Chair. We have with us today I believe Mr. Lee is going to
24 give the presentation on behalf of the City of Las Cruces for the City of
25 Las Cruces Application for the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality
26 Application.
27

28 Eakman: Welcome Mr. Soo Gyu Lee.

29
30 Lee: Good afternoon Mr. Chair and Members of the Committee. This project is
31 part of our \$40 million ITS 20-year plan. Specifically we would like to
32 focus at this time on four major corridors. You can find some of the
33 information on the map in your packets. Sorry, I did not prepare the
34 presentation because I rely on the packet because this is not the first
35 presentation. My understanding is that most of the Council members, City
36 Council Members, it's the third time actually to present to the Council and
37 we already presented to the BPAC and the TAC Committees.

38 One of the corridors is Lohman from Walnut to Amador; and the
39 second one is South Main Street from Idaho to Union; and the next one is
40 Madrid from Telshor to South Main; and the last one is Valley from
41 Avenida de Mesilla to University. Also we would like to make a connection
42 on University. There is a little segment that is not connected between El
43 Paseo and South Main, and then also Union Avenue from University to
44 South Main.

45 This project consists of the expansion of our fiber optic interconnect
46 and also any software upgrade and then also the replacement of any

1 traffic signal equipment related to the adaptive system. We expect
2 approximately 10-15% improvement on each corridor, but it depends on
3 the location because each corridor and the location has a different
4 situation. So our expectation varies. Also we expect between 10-20%
5 about the emission reduction, but unfortunately again we cannot give an
6 exact range at this point. Again it depends on the traffic volume on each
7 corridor, so we cannot give you an exact number.

8 Once we have done this we are going to continue to focus on the
9 remaining TO-1 the corridor on our map. City of Las Cruces has the
10 Intelligence Traffic System Plan is a 20-year and then we expect to spend
11 about \$40 million. So far we have spent approximately \$3 million and we
12 request at this time \$5 million and then a little over \$700,000 City match. I
13 stand for any question you may have.

14
15 Eakman: Mr. Soo Gyu Lee. If I'm understanding the project well, this is all about the
16 synchronicity of our traffic signals?
17

18 Lee: Mr. Chair. Yes, that is a part of, but the major focus is the expansion of
19 our Interconnect, which is the fiber optic, because without the fiber optics,
20 which is the backbone of our traffic system, we are not able to implement
21 any new technology or system. But as a result of the expansion and the
22 implementation of the system, yes we will.
23

24 Eakman: And the improvement at 10-15% is that the improvement of traffic flow?
25

26 Lee: Yes sir.
27

28 Eakman: And thus the mitigation of air pollution is because traffic flow is better?
29

30 Lee: Exactly right.
31

32 Eakman: Okay. Thank you. Yes Councilor Vasquez.
33

34 Vasquez: Thank you Chair Eakman. Thank you Mr. Soo Gyu Lee for that
35 presentation. I think this is a much needed improvement to streamline
36 some of our traffic signal operations and standardize them across the
37 board as one way to deal with our traffic issues. I do have a question
38 about the timing. It looks here like Lohman/Boutz/Main Street and South
39 Valley for these proposed corridors are also some of them currently under
40 construction others are not, but provide relief from construction areas
41 currently. What is the timeline on this and what with the construction look
42 like on the ground in terms of potential access limitations for motorists?
43

44 Lee: Our proposed location on Lohman is from Walnut to Main Street. We tried
45 to minimize the conflict between these projects and our Downtown project.
46 We expect that there is a minor interruption because most of the work we

1 are expecting to use our existing pathway which means that there is an
2 existing pathway available for our fiber optic line. So what we plan to do is
3 we're going to pull out the old communication line from the existing
4 pathway and then pull the fiber optic line through the existing pathway. So
5 we are not expecting any interruption in that area.
6

7 Vasquez: So is that for all of the areas of proposed installation of the fiber optic line?
8 When you say minor interruption are you talking about one-lane closure?
9 Are you talking about no-lane closures? What does that mean?
10

11 Lee: It depends on the location. But the estimate is that we are going to have a
12 minimum interruption of traffic flow. The worst case is a one-lane closure
13 in a very limited area for any concrete work. Other than that we are not
14 expecting any street closure or any interruption of the existing traffic flow.
15

16 Vasquez: And this is for all of the streets? Not just Lohman? Is that correct?
17

18 Lee: Yes sir.
19

20 Vasquez: Okay. And again just a question about the overlap within existing
21 construction projects, what is the timeline for start and finish on these?
22

23 Lee: I cannot give you the exact timeline because we do not know exactly when
24 the money is going to be available for this. That's the reason I cannot give
25 you the timeline, but we're probably going to overlap a little bit, but as you
26 know most of the construction on the Downtown project on the southern
27 part of the area is almost completed. So I'm not expecting any major
28 interruption between this project and the Downtown project.
29

30 Vasquez: Thank you. Part of the concern there is not just for current areas under
31 construction, but some of these are providing relief from existing
32 construction areas where traffic is heavy to avoid some of the construction
33 areas. So once we receive funding, Mr. Soo Gyu Lee, do we then have to
34 implement the project immediately? Is there a certain time frame with
35 which we can start and finish the project? I'm just thinking about being
36 able to stagger these projects in a way that minimally affects both
37 businesses and motorists.
38

39 Lee: At this point we don't have a definite plan, which one we're going to start
40 first. Once we get the money we're going to have a meeting with the City
41 Design teams and our Construction team so we can find out the minimized
42 interruption for the existing contracts. The same thing, we also have a
43 plan to meet with the NMDOT because there are other areas on Valley, it's
44 going to interrupt the Valley Project. So we definitely will have a
45 coordination meeting with the City and the NMDOT and if the corridor or
46 any area interrupt with DAC or the Town of Mesilla we will definitely have

1 the coordination meeting before we start. Then also we plan to have, I
2 don't know yet but we definitely will have a meeting with any business
3 owner if it's going to interrupt, but we're not expecting it because we've
4 been doing this project since I'd say about 2011. We've never had any
5 issue with any business owners or residents.

6
7 Vasquez: Thank you. I appreciate the due diligence on that and I appreciate your
8 consideration of working with other departments on their existing
9 construction or planned construction projects. Lastly, in terms of what this
10 represents for your end user, your motorists who will be sitting at one of
11 these intersections, what can they expect to change at some of these
12 stoplights as part of this new system being connected to the larger fiber
13 optic system? What will be the major difference there for folks?

14
15 Lee: It is kind of difficult to feel the big difference because 10-15% of increase
16 means the travel time from Point A to Point B. As you know the traffic we
17 call the network so it's all connected, so it is extremely difficult to evaluate
18 or measure the exact improvement. How we measure the improvement is
19 that we actually use our Bluetooth module to measure the travel speed
20 and then also the travel time from Point A to Point B. How I can say 10-
21 15% is we already implement this system along Lohman, I understand
22 there is still a lot of residents and the drivers they still have a concern and
23 they experience some congestion, but compared to before we
24 implemented this system versus after we implemented based on the study
25 and then also the third party the engineering firm, they confirmed there's
26 approximately 18% of the improvement in terms of the travel time. Still
27 there is another component which is called the progression. Going from
28 Point A to Point B, if it's long enough, then how many times are they
29 actually going to stop at a red light. That's the measure we're supposed to
30 measure it, but unfortunately, it is impossible to measure at this point with
31 the current technology. So we only measure based on the travel time
32 only.

33
34 Vasquez: Very good. Thank you Mr. Lee. Thank you Chair.

35
36 Lee: Can I add, Mr. Chair. I forgot to mention about the one thing. This project
37 is not only a benefit to the City of Las Cruces. This project will benefit
38 Doña Ana County and the Town of Mesilla. As everybody knows, the City
39 of Las Cruces maintains three intersections along Avenida de Mesilla
40 within the Town of Mesilla, and then also the intersection in Doña Ana
41 County which is Dripping Springs and Sonoma Springs. So even that
42 area and then also along Picacho, the NMDOT and then on North Main
43 we also maintain. So that's the reason there's a benefit to NMDOT, City of
44 Las Cruces, Town of Mesilla and the Doña Ana County. It impacts this
45 whole region.
46

1 Eakman: Thank you so much for that. Yes Mayor Pro-Tem Sorg.
2
3 Sorg: Thank you Mr. Chairman. I have to go back to where you made a
4 comment on a question that was asked by Councilor Vasquez dealing with
5 the disruption on the street, in other words installing the lines and you said
6 that there was at least one case of the six different places you're going to
7 do this, where you're going to replace the existing line with fiber optic,
8 right?
9
10 Lee: Yes sir.
11
12 Sorg: Okay, so what is the existing line made of?
13
14 Lee: Right now the existing line we call the twist of pair. Like old
15 communication lines, the telephone line, that is what it looks like, but we
16 call the copper, which is the second generation of the communication line.
17 But with the copper line we are not able to make communication from the
18 Traffic Management Center in the traffic building which is you know most
19 of the ...
20
21 Sorg: Yes, yes I've seen it.
22
23 Lee: From that point to each intersection with that. So the only way we can
24 make a control at the TMC to each intersection with the fiber optic,
25 because of the amount of traffic, the data back and forth between the TMC
26 and each intersection we need to have this fiber optic line.
27
28 Sorg: Okay.
29
30 Lee: Yes.
31
32 Sorg: So I assume that copper wire, that telephone wire if you will, is enclosed in
33 a larger conduit. It's not just wire buried in dirt.
34
35 Lee: Yes sir.
36
37 Sorg: Yes, it's in conduit rather.
38
39 Lee: Yes sir. So right now we ...
40
41 Sorg: Thank you very much.
42
43 Lee: Okay.
44
45 Sorg: That's enough.
46

1 Eakman: Are there other questions? Yes Trustee Johnson-Burick.
2
3 J-Burick: Thank you Mr. Chair. I guess with some of the uncertainty regarding
4 when the funding is coming, the indetermination at this point of where the
5 project is going to start and then we won't know until again, when the
6 project actually gets started or we get the funding, we won't know the
7 status of the current traffic projects that are currently going on within the
8 City and the County, is it possible to get an update to the Committee when
9 we actually get the funding and we have some of these meetings that are
10 going to take place so we can be advised?
11
12 Lee: Definitely, we can have a presentation after we have got the money, but I
13 would like to let you know this project is going to be moving really fast.
14 We expect six corridors we can get it done within a year. So for example,
15 we recently completed the upgrade along El Paseo from South Main to
16 University. It only took like three months. But there is a minimum of
17 interruption whenever we have to replace the existing box. That's the only
18 time we actually take about half of the lane and then we might have a little
19 bit of interruption to the business access. Other than that it's pretty much,
20 nobody will even know that there's any construction that is happening.
21
22 J-Burick: All right. Thank you, thank you Mr. Chair.
23
24 Eakman: Are there other questions? I would like to recognize that Vice-Chair
25 Rawson has joined us. Appreciate it. Any other questions or comments?
26 Would there be a motion to approve this resolution?
27
28 Sorg: Move to approve.
29
30 Eakman: Is there a second?
31
32 J-Burick: Second.
33
34 Eakman: It has been moved and seconded that we approve this resolution. Would
35 you take, are there more questions or comments? Hearing none. Would
36 you please poll the Board?
37
38 Wray: Yes Mr. Chair. Commissioner Rawson.
39
40 Rawson: Yes.
41
42 Wray: Mr. Love.
43
44 Love: Yes.
45
46 Wray: Commissioner Hakes.

1
2 Hakes: Yes.
3
4 Wray: Commissioner Solis.
5
6 Solis: Yes.
7
8 Wray: Trustee Johnson-Burick.
9
10 J-Burick: Yes.
11
12 Wray: Councilor Vasquez.
13
14 Vasquez: Yes.
15
16 Wray: Councilor Sorg.
17
18 Sorg: Yes.
19
20 Wray: Mr. Chair.
21
22 Eakman: Yes. And if I may comment Mr. Lee your English proficiency keeps
23 improving and improving and improving. My hat's off to you sir for all that
24 self-study it must be taking.
25
26 **7.3 Resolution 18-19: A Resolution Adopting the 2018-2023**
27 **Transportation Improvement Program**
28
29 Eakman: And the next resolution then Andrew.
30
31 Wray: Yes Mr. Chair. Thank you. The next resolution that we have before the
32 Committee today is a TIP Amendment requested by the New Mexico
33 Department of Transportation. This amendment is LC00300 on US-70 the
34 bridge over the outfall channel. That project has been in our TIP for
35 Federal Fiscal Year 2019.
36 The DOT wishes to increase the Bridge Preservation Funds
37 included in the project by \$1.1 million, which would bring the project cost
38 listed in the packet and on the slide is the total project cost after the \$1.1
39 million, so the total project cost would then be \$5,808,000. And for the
40 Performance Measure Justification NMDOT provided text that the project
41 will address pavement and bridge condition. That is the only amendment
42 being requested today.
43
44 Eakman: Are there any questions on this? Hearing none. Does anyone want to
45 move approval?
46

1 Vasquez: Move to approve.
2
3 J-Burick: Second.
4
5 Eakman: It has been moved and seconded. Is there a discussion? Hearing none.
6 Andrew would you poll the Board?
7
8 Wray: Yes Mr. Chair. Commissioner Rawson.
9
10 Rawson: Yes.
11
12 Wray: Mr. Love.
13
14 Love: Yes.
15
16 Wray: Commissioner Hakes.
17
18 Hakes: Yes.
19
20 Wray: Commissioner Solis.
21
22 Solis: Yes.
23
24 Wray: Trustee Johnson-Burick.
25
26 J-Burick: Yes.
27
28 Wray: Councilor Vasquez.
29
30 Vasquez: Yes.
31
32 Wray: Councilor Sorg.
33
34 Sorg: Yes.
35
36 Wray: Mr. Chair.
37
38 Eakman: Yes. And Andrew I wonder if we could off the agenda for a moment to
39 recognize some of our members who this will be their last meeting.
40
41 Wray: Certainly Mr. Chair. We can certainly do that. This will be the final
42 meeting attended by Commissioners Rawson and Hakes as members of
43 the Policy Committee. We actually have some gifts for our outgoing Policy
44 Committee members from staff that we prepared to thank them for their
45 service during their time with us. Staff is keenly aware that there is a lot
46 more that goes in to being an MPO Policy Committee Member than just

1 sitting on the dais. It is something that requires investment on the part of
2 every individual and staff deeply appreciates the efforts brought to the
3 table by all of our members. So we would take this time at the Chair's
4 discretion to thank our outgoing members for their service.

5
6 Hakes: Wish you weren't so happy about it. No I'm just kidding.

7
8 Eakman: I would like to recognize these two fine members. I appreciated the
9 attention. I've appreciated you being here and Vice-Chair Rawson you've
10 never had really to really fulfill your responsibilities that much this year.

11
12 Rawson: I'm very grateful. Our Chair has been so loyal and been here all the time.
13 I haven't needed to fill in.

14
15 Eakman: We'll see yet. Very good.

16
17 Rawson: Although I will say, if we get the construction on Valley resolved a little
18 more maybe I will be on time. So it's a little difficult to get across town
19 right now with that.

20
21 Eakman: Oh, is there construction going on down there?

22 23 **8. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

24 25 **8.1 MVMPO Safety Presentation**

26
27 Eakman: Let's move on to our discussion items Andrew.

28
29 Wray: Thank you Mr. Chair. I would like to introduce Dr. Michael McAdams who
30 will be presenting the Safety Data from 2016.

31
32 Eakman: Dr. McAdams.

33
34 McAdams: Good afternoon Policy Committee. I would like to talk about our Safety
35 Report for 2016.

36
37 Eakman: Dr. McAdams would you get right into the microphone?

38
39 McAdams: I want one of those little headphones. So the Safety Report for 2016 and
40 one of our goals for the 2040 MTP and also continue the update is safety
41 for motorists and pedestrians and bicycles, our most vulnerable people.
42 We're not about just keeping vehicles move fast or quickly, but looking at
43 pedestrians and bicycles, a multimodal system.

44 Improving safety is not just regulation, it's not just intersection
45 improvements or geometric, it's really multifaceted. We know that crashes
46 are related to multiple factors; inattention, texting particularly, driving while

1 on drugs or alcohol, geometric design, as I said before, and the amount of
2 vehicle miles traveled because as vehicle miles traveled increases, the
3 more crashes increase too. So we have to look at, we can't just, one size
4 does not fit all, it's really a multiple of different factors that can decrease
5 crashes.

6 If you notice that something called Transportation Performance
7 Management is related to what we talk about standards and targets we
8 talked about before and actually is a data driven process. So you're going
9 to look at goals and targets and then look at the data and are we
10 increasing or decreasing, in this case crashes. And again it's data driven.
11 It's very, it is not something new it's been around for quite a while now.

12 Most of the things we emphasized last time were the standards are
13 fatalities. Unfortunately our fatalities are increasing, but you can see it's
14 very volatile. You go up and down very, very rapidly, but projection wise
15 it's sort of decreasing and increasing right. Serious injuries, which is
16 basically possible injuries and that's Class A, has been decreasing, which
17 is very fortunate. A lot of those probably deal with different technologies,
18 air bags, automatic braking systems, etc. and every time you get an
19 improvement technology your injury crashes go down.

20 Non-motorized fatalities unfortunately have gone up. But in the
21 future they will probably stay stagnant. So that's kind of good and bad. If
22 we continue on the same way we'll be doing.

23 Fatalities per vehicle miles is not increasing by vehicle miles, but
24 actually staying stagnant. So that means as we increase our vehicle miles
25 it's actually going down because the crashes are not going up
26 proportionately with the vehicle miles. Serious Injury again Class A by
27 vehicle miles traveled is going down as predicted. We hope it continues
28 that way too.

29 Crashes by intersection if you look at this is a general, it's also in
30 the report and there at particular places too. So we just talked about the
31 Lohman/Walton, Walnut and Lohman and Telshor that's where a number
32 of our overall crashes are occurring. You can also see along Lohman in
33 general and somewhere like Missouri also has proportionately a greater
34 number of traffic collisions too, all kinds of collisions. Here you see it's off
35 of the report, but basically this is by total number not by crash rate and of
36 course comes out on top is Telshor and Lohman. But we look at the next
37 line you see that measured by vehicle miles travelled are entering vehicles
38 to the intersection. it decreases. It doesn't come out on top.

39 Here you have the area intersections by crash rates. The same
40 thing million vehicles entering an intersection and actually we see that
41 Lohman's not so big because it's really a high-traffic intersection and
42 others like Bataan Memorial come out on top. That means that if you had
43 a low-volume intersection and you had a lot of crashes it would pan out.
44 So if you look at total numbers, that would not be a big important, not
45 come out very well, but when you look at vehicle miles travelled it comes
46 up, which means that there is some significant problems beyond just the

1 probability of crashes occurring. Because it doesn't matter to a certain
2 degree how many vehicles you have coming in or safety precautions at
3 intersections there will always be injuries or crashes and/or fatalities in
4 some situations too.

5 Here are the fatalities by factors. If you notice that the majority of
6 the crashes have been related to drugs and alcohol. The others which is
7 kind of concerning that we don't hear reports of anything. Let me go back.
8 DOT, it goes through DOT, but a lot of times the police do not report what
9 the cause of the accident, so we would like to get more of that reported
10 too.

11 Here are serious injuries by type. If you, this is sort of telling about
12 which are the most dangerous corridors. Which is Lohman, again Lohman
13 and Amador and then also the clusters around University and along
14 Telshor as well. With other, the other ones is quite a cluster, a two cluster
15 of Del Rey and Triviz and Elks and also cluster around the Three Crosses
16 area, but many of this is 2016 we'll probably see an improvement or a
17 decrease in collisions in some of those locations.

18 If you look at pedestrian crashes what you notice is that there are a
19 few on University, which you would think would have a number because of
20 the University students, actually the clusters around Picacho and then
21 around Missouri and Idaho. And that's unfortunately due to, not
22 unfortunately, is due to probably that's a very low-income area and many
23 people have to walk. So more pedestrians usually equals more crashes.

24 You look at severity again, sort of predictable, but what is really
25 noticeable is on Picacho and Spruce. There are a number of pedestrian,
26 excuse me, bicycle crashes those that have injury related. If you look at
27 the cause of crashes the biggest one, no doubt, is far (*inaudible*) the other
28 ones is inattention and you can almost say those were related to texting.
29 And I'm sure you've been at intersections and you've seen people texting
30 going through intersections or on their phones. I'm not sure what we can
31 do about it, but it is the cause. The other cause is about number three, is
32 no data. Which of course, I know I'm probably preaching to the choir, but
33 you know we can get better data we can make better decisions.

34 Conclusions are overall crashes are decreasing in absolute number
35 and per million VMT. But if you look at closer serious injuries have also
36 been steadily decreasing. There is an increase in total non-motorized
37 injuries and fatalities and by absolute number there is an increase in total
38 fatalities. Also, the crash rate fatalities per 100 million, excuse me, that's a
39 hundred not a hundred, hundred thousand million is stagnant and the
40 amount of fatalities is small and volatile. For example, we could have four
41 fatalities at one intersection and that would bring it right up. So it could go
42 downward very rapidly or also come up very rapidly too. It's because it's
43 small and so any kind of projections has a high margin of error or
44 significant value. I wouldn't bet my paycheck on it. But it's kind of good.
45 We have to remember it is going up and we should be alarmed, not
46 alarmed, be cautious for fatalities, but the other thing, we should take that

1 in mind that it's such a small number. So we're blessed to have a small
2 number.

3 Intersection crashes are concentrated in the areas around major
4 traffic generators. You're looking around the Mall, Wal-Mart on Lohman
5 and also around the area of Triviz where we have Lowe's etc. around
6 major traffic generators.

7 Traffic crash or concentrate in areas around, excuse me,
8 pedestrian crashes are concentrated along Missouri. Bicycle crashes are
9 concentrated near University and Picacho and Spruce. And I stand for
10 any questions. Thank you.

11

12 Eakman: Mayor Pro-Tem Sorg.

13

14 Sorg: Thank you Mr. Chair. Thank you Dr. McAdams. Could you go back to the
15 slide that shows the MPO area intersections by crash rates per 100 million
16 vehicle miles travelled entering vehicles?

17

18 McAdams: That's it right there.

19

20 Sorg: Yes. I'm noticing the top three intersections there in the red and the blue.

21

22 McAdams: Right.

23

24 Sorg: Of course is Lohman, but curiously it's at Foothills and Telshor

25

26 McAdams: That's Foothills.

27

28 Sorg: The red one?

29

30 McAdams: That's correct. That is in fact Telshor.

31

32 Sorg: But I'd like to bring your attention to the one up there at Rinconada and
33 Bataan Memorial.

34

35 McAdams: Absolutely.

36

37 Sorg: Now is there a traffic light at that intersection?

38

39 Wray: Mr. Chair, Councilor Sorg. That's actually right in the neighborhood of
40 where I live and no there is not. There is not a traffic light at that
41 intersection.

42

43 Sorg: Thank you. As I recall that is where you live. So what are, what, how
44 should I say it, it will be up to the City to decide the warrants warranted
45 traffic light there I assume? And do you know if there's any action on that,
46 some data collecting for example?

1
2 McAdams: Mr. Chair, Mr. Sorg. I don't know if there is any data collection. We collect
3 traffic volumes, and crashes are done by the State. That's all the data we
4 have. Obviously I think there is warranted not to use the word warranted
5 in the legal term or the traffic, but I think it is warranted to study that
6 intersection particularly.
7
8 Sorg: Is it, what's the right word? Do you have the authority, maybe that's too
9 much of a word, authority to advise the City of Las Cruces to study that
10 intersection or any other one for that matter?
11
12 McAdams: Mr. Chair, Mr. Sorg. We can recommend and that's partially what we're
13 doing is recommending looking at obviously places that have crash rates,
14 but we don't have the authority to say you have to do it.
15
16 Sorg: Okay. Right.
17
18 McAdams: And what's really and maybe the DOT can also comment, the Highway
19 Improvement Safety Programs there is no money until about two or three
20 years from now, at most two years. So the money would have to come
21 from the City.
22
23 Sorg: That's right.
24
25 McAdams: To do this.
26
27 Sorg: Okay.
28
29 McAdams: Let me say. I would encourage the City to look at it, because there is
30 something going on there that may or may not be corrected, be
31 correctable.
32
33 Sorg: Okay. Will the MPO staff relay that message to City staff?
34
35 McAdams: What do you think?
36
37 Sorg: I mean it's like pulling teeth.
38
39 Wray: Mr. Chair, Councilor Sorg. At the direction of the Policy Committee we
40 can certainly convey to Mr. Lee, who it's unfortunate that he is not here as
41 he is the audience that this conversation, but MPO staff will inform Mr. Lee
42 that this conversation took place
43
44 Sorg: Please.
45

1 Wray: At this meeting today regarding this particular intersection. Mr. Lee was
2 present for this presentation at the TAC Meeting last week, but we will
3 inform him of the interest of this Policy Committee in having that particular
4 intersection analyzed and addressed.

5
6 Sorg: Okay. Thank you so much. Thank you again Mr. Chairman. I'm done.

7
8 Eakman: Thank you. Are there other questions or comments? Mr. Love.

9
10 Love: Mr. Chair. I would like to further address Mr. Sorg's concern. Actually the
11 DOT has been working with the City based on future developments in that
12 area of Rinconada and Bataan Memorial. There are some lots that are
13 being developed that businesses are going to be coming in and as part of
14 working with the City we're negotiating on a traffic signal being placed at
15 that location.

16
17 Sorg: Oh thank you for saying that Mr. Love. Does that mean DOT will help pay
18 for it?

19
20 Love: That's part of the negotiations.

21
22 Sorg: Okay, very good.

23
24 Eakman: Thank you Mr. Love. Other comments or questions on that? Hearing
25 none. Dr. McAdams, thank you so much.

26
27 McAdams: Thank you Chair.

28 29 **8.2 NMDOT update**

30
31 Eakman: Mr. Love would you give us the NMDOT update please.

32
33 Love: Currently DOT has two projects in the area. As everyone's aware of,
34 there's the Valley Drive project that's continuing. They're in Phase 1-B
35 and 3-B of the project and all the activities are going on in those Phases
36 utility, electrical, storm drain, sidewalk, curb and gutter and roadway.

37 And the other project that's ongoing is the guardrail on Interstate
38 10. The contractor is currently working westbound on Interstate 10
39 upgrading guardrail in the Las Cruces area. That's all we have for now.
40 Anybody has any questions.

41
42 Eakman: I do Mr. Love. I wonder if you would like to comment on what might be
43 happening in the future at Main Street and Avenida de Mesilla? We were
44 just told by our Public Works Department on Monday evening that there's
45 going to be buffer bike lanes installed there and some other things like that
46 and to me that seems like there's more stress going to be on Avenida de

1 Mesilla and that's the access to Mesilla. So I wonder if you would like to
2 comment on that.

3
4 Love: I don't think I'm in a position to. I'm not familiar with that.

5
6 Eakman: You think that will be totally a City project?

7
8 Love: That's what I'm thinking.

9
10 Eakman: On Main Street?

11
12 Love: Yes.

13
14 Eakman: Okay. We'll need some more information on that from our Public Works.
15 Yes. Mayor Pro-Tem Sorg.

16
17 Sorg: Thank you Mr. Chairman. Mr. Love, sometime ago, not too long ago, I'd
18 say within a year or so, Mr. Doolittle talked about a project resurfacing
19 Highway 70/North Main from Elks/Triviz intersection to Del Rey. Where is
20 that project now? It hasn't started I know.

21
22 Love: The design has started. We have a contractor on board and we're doing
23 preliminary design. We have been having meetings with our consultant
24 and we're in the preliminary design stage.

25
26 Sorg: Okay. When do you expect it will start to work?

27
28 Love: Coming off the top of my head, I think we have the project actually
29 programmed in like 2022 somewhere around there.

30
31 Sorg: Whoa, okay. Hope it lasts that long. Thank you Mr. Chair.

32
33 Eakman: Other questions for Mr. Love?

34
35 **9. COMMITTEE AND STAFF COMMENTS**

36
37 Eakman: Why don't we go with staff comments right now.

38
39 Wray: Thank you Mr. Chair. On the screen before you staff wishes to notify the
40 Policy Committee that an administrative modification has been executed in
41 the Unified Planning Work Program for the Mesilla Valley MPO.

42 In the latter part of October of this year NMDOT notified this MPO
43 that there was an additional apportionment that has been made available.
44 I wish I had an explanation to provide to this Committee as to where this
45 extra money comes from, but DOT historically does not provide it and they
46 did not in this time. It's just there was more money available to all of the

1 MPOs across the State. The previous funding level from the Feds for the
2 PL Funds, which is the top column here, was \$248,634, which required a
3 local match of \$42,370. The new level that has been provided to this
4 MPO by NMDOT is \$265,179 and that requires a local match of \$45,190.
5 That's a difference, an addition of \$16,545 of Federal money and requiring
6 a local match of \$2,820.

7 Additionally we were also notified by NMDOT Transit and Rail that
8 our apportionment for Fiscal Year 2019, and I should specify these
9 numbers are all specifically for Fiscal Year 2019. These do not impact the
10 Fiscal Year 2020 numbers at all. We have a new apportionment of
11 \$75,876 Federal dollars, which requires a local match of \$18,969 which
12 requires an additional \$390 of match.

13 Due to the guidance of NMDOT and the relatively small dollar
14 amounts here, this did qualify as an administrative modification. Staff has
15 processed it as so as of this past Friday. We had a deadline of this
16 coming Friday to get that done and so we are compliant with that deadline.
17 Again given the relatively small amount of money that was in addition,
18 staff apportioned the additional funds among the already existing MPO
19 work tasks and the UPWP along the same proportional lines as the
20 general grant. So basically program support and administration gets 20%,
21 TIP work gets 5% etc., etc. on across. The new program total for the total
22 local and federal amount for the PL funds, the Planning Funds is
23 \$310,369. The FTA funds the 5303 Funds, is \$94,845 for a total program
24 amount for Fiscal Year 2019 of \$405,214.

25 Just as one last note of administrative housekeeping, as our fiscal
26 agent, the City of Las Cruces is the keeper of the actual budget and the
27 monies. There is an action item at this coming City Council Meeting on
28 December 17th to address the additional monies and match being
29 incorporated into the MPO budget and I'll stand now for any questions on
30 this item.

31
32 Eakman: Questions of Andrew? Does this mean the Christmas Party is on?

33
34 Wray: It does. We have it all decorated.

35
36 Eakman: Thank you so much.

37
38 Wray: We do have one other item Mr. Chair if I may.

39
40 Eakman: Yes.

41
42 Wray: MPO staff is now three of the four meetings into this initial phase of the
43 first round of public comment. I'm pleased to say that staff is moderately
44 pleased with the attendance that we have had at each one of these
45 meetings. Our attendance at each one of the venues so far has been up
46 over the attendance at each one of those venues at the last time that we

1 held public meetings for the MTP back in 2015. In some cases it has
2 been kind of noticeably up, so we are very, very pleased about that. Our
3 final meeting that we have during this kind of first phase of the first round
4 is tomorrow down in Vado Del Cerro. Everyone is welcome to come
5 attend this meeting and we encourage everyone to do so. We have had
6 some representatives from the County Commission and the City Council
7 visit some of our meetings so we have been very gratified to have that
8 level of participation.

9 We also do want to request after the start of the New Year, we are
10 very interested in going and speaking to the County Commissioner's
11 Constituent Meetings and the City of Las Cruces District Meetings for
12 each of the City Councilors, but we will interface with your local
13 jurisdictions on that.

14 With regard to the Town of Mesilla, it is staff's intention to, with the
15 kind permission of the Town of course, to host an open house in the Town
16 of Mesilla sometime early to mid-January and potentially too, we've had
17 some discussions with the Mayor, we may go do a presentation at a Town
18 of Mesilla Board Meeting at a date as of yet to be determined. But I want
19 to assure the Committee that the MTP is now well underway. We're
20 getting some good input and our participation from the public is a little bit
21 up over the last time. So I'll stand now for any questions on that.

22
23 Eakman: I guess there are no questions on that.

24
25 Wray: Thank you Mr. Chair.

26
27 Eakman: The next meeting in January will be at the County?

28
29 Wray: Thank you Mr. Chair. I had completely overlooked that, yes, that is
30 absolutely correct. With the start of the New Year our venue does switch
31 for the TAC and for the Policy Committee. We will be meeting over at the
32 County on January, I'm afraid I don't have the date in front of me. The
33 ninth I'm hearing and it will be over at the Doña Ana County Commission
34 Chambers.

35
36 Eakman: Very good. And probably the first order of business will be election of
37 officers for the 2019.

38
39 Wray: That will be on the agenda. Yes sir.

40
41 Eakman: Okay, excellent. Any other questions on that? Does the Committee have
42 any comments today? Any members of the Committee have something
43 they would like to report or? Yes Commissioner Hakes.

44
45 Hakes: I would just like to thank everybody for the experience. And I only have an
46 eight or nine month perspective, but I wonder where the talk is ever about

1 the long-range prospects maybe for the bigger transportation plan for a
2 route that goes around the north of the Valley or a circular route all around
3 the City. Things that need to be planned well in advance before these
4 things come upon us. We don't need to answer that now I just hope that
5 somewhere that's being talked about and dealt with.
6

7 Wray: Mr. Chair. If I may, I can speak to that Commissioner. There are some
8 facilities that are projected to serve that purpose. Engler being kind of the
9 most notable of being a regionally connecting route from the east side on
10 that connecting point near US-70 all the way across, crossing I-25 down
11 into the Valley on the west side there. That has been a projected
12 alignment for many, many years. It has been very slow going. I will
13 inform this Committee we did meet with your jurisdictional staffs in
14 preparation for this MTP public comment phase to kind of get a feel for
15 where all of the jurisdictions are as far as what they see as being
16 important over the next five to ten and beyond period. And Engler was
17 something that came up both from the City of Las Cruces and from Doña
18 Ana County as an area of interest. It has been an area of interest for a
19 long time. It's just been very slow developing as development has been
20 slow in that area.

21 I also do want to, I don't know if caution is the right word, but inform
22 this Committee that there are significant right-of-way issues with the
23 alignment as it stands right now. There are at some point and I mean we
24 certainly always as MPO staff encourage our jurisdictions to address
25 these issues at each MTP, but at some point there are going to be some
26 difficult political decisions that are going to have to be made about either
27 shifting the alignment of Engler or changing an alignment or a designation
28 to a different facility or making some of these hard decisions about, is the
29 alignment going to go ahead and push through here and we're going to
30 have to deal with the right-of-way costs etc. etc.

31 So I do certainly urge all the jurisdictions to please be thinking
32 about these issues throughout this MTP process, both the benefits long-
33 term but also the costs that will be involved in these decisions as well.
34

35 10. PUBLIC COMMENT

36
37 Eakman: Thank you. Is there any public comment at this time? I guess there is no
38 public comment at this time. I've really enjoyed chairing these meetings
39 for the past year. I thank so much of the Committee Members for the
40 cooperation, the attendance, the flow of work.

41 Andrew I'd like to compliment you on the very smooth transition
42 from Mr. Murphy to your current leadership. It's very much appreciated.
43 Is there any other business to come before us today? Yes Trustee
44 Johnson-Burick.
45

1 J-Burick: I just want to take this opportunity to wish everyone a wonderful Holiday
2 Season and to extend my gratitude to Commissioner Rawson and
3 Commissioner Hakes. Thank you.
4

5 Eakman: Hear, hear.
6

7 **11. ADJOURNMENT (1:57 PM)**
8

9 Eakman: If there is no other business to transact. We are adjourned.
10

11 Sorg: And Merry Christmas to all.
12
13

14 
15
16

17 Chairperson