

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

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mike Bartholomew (CLC Transit) (arrived 4:09)
Michael Garza (DAC Flood Commission)
Jolene Herrera (NMDOT)
Rene Molina (DAC Eng.)
Luis Marmolejo (DAC Planning)
Lily Sensiba (EBID)
Tony Trevino (CLC Public Works)

MEMBERS ABSENT: David Armijo (SCRTD)
Bill Childress (BLM)
Todd Gregory (LCPS)
Dale Harrell (NMSU)
Soo Gyu Lee (CLC)
Harold Love (NMDOT)
Debbi Lujan (Town of Mesilla)
Larry Shannon (Town of Mesilla)

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

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

1. CALL TO ORDER (4:05 PM)

Marmolejo: Okay. Good afternoon everybody. We're going to call to order this meeting, the first meeting of 2018, January 4th, of the Mesilla Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization TAC Advisory Committee.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Marmolejo: Item number two, approval of the agenda. Any changes to the agenda? I see none. Motion to approve the agenda.

Bartholomew: I move we approve the agenda.

1
2 Marmolejo: Also real quick, I failed to do so is to please call out your names so we can
3 get it on the record for our scorekeeper.
4
5 Bartholomew: That scorekeeper.
6
7 Herrera: I second the motion.
8
9 Trevino: For roll, Tony Trevino, City of Las Cruces.
10
11 Bartholomew: Are we doing roll right now or?
12
13 Marmolejo: Yes sir.
14
15 Bartholomew: Mike Bartholomew, City of Las Cruces RoadRUNNER Transit.
16
17 Molina: Rene Molina, Dona Ana County Engineering.
18
19 Garza: Michael Garza, Dona Ana County Flood Commission.
20
21 Marmolejo: Luis Marmolejo, Dona Ana County Planning.
22
23 Sensiba: Lily Sensiba, EBID.
24
25 Marmolejo: Okay. And then item number three is calling out for election of officers.
26
27 Murphy: Mr. Chair.
28
29 Marmolejo: Yes sir.
30
31 Murphy: We have a motion and a second on the approval of the agenda. We need
32 a vote.
33
34 Marmolejo: I'm sorry. Okay. All in favor.
35
36 MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.
37
38 **3. ELECTION OF OFFICERS**
39
40 Marmolejo: Now can I go on to three?
41
42 Murphy: Yes.
43
44 Marmolejo: Thank you. My bad. Okay so action number three we'll do election of
45 officers, we can go with the Chair first or is there any particular order?
46

1 Murphy: There's no set order. I guess open for nominations and then you guys
2 fight it out.
3
4 Marmolejo: Okay. As said, is there any motions for, let's go with election of the Chair.
5 Is there any motions to elect a Chair, new Chair? Being none.
6
7 Herrera: I have one.
8
9 Marmolejo: Yes ma'am.
10
11 Herrera: Mr. Chair. I motion that we elect Harold Love from the NMDOT as the
12 Chair of the TAC.
13
14 Marmolejo: Okay. There's a motion made. I just want to bring something up that was
15 brought up by DOT last time. Is it, will there be any conflict with your
16 people on your end?
17
18 Herrera: No, because Harold doesn't serve in the same capacity ...
19
20 Marmolejo: Okay.
21
22 Herrera: As oversight of the MPO but I do and so there won't be any conflict of
23 interest.
24
25 Marmolejo: Okay. We have a motion on the table to elect Harold Love from New
26 Mexico DOT as Chair. Do I hear a second?
27
28 Trevino: Second.
29
30 Marmolejo: Okay. All in favor.
31
32 MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.
33
34 Marmolejo: Any opposed? And I'm wondering if there was going to be a second
35 motion for anybody else. I don't see any. Okay and now also motion of
36 the Vice-Chair. Do I see a motion to either keep or select, or a motion to
37 elect another Vice-Chair?
38
39 Herrera: Mr. Chair.
40
41 Marmolejo: Yes ma'am.
42
43 Herrera: I'd like to move that we elect Lily Sensiba from EBID as Vice-Chair.
44
45 Marmolejo: It appears she's willing to accept the motion. I'll second that motion. Okay
46 and go ahead and do the vote. All in favor.

1
2 MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

3
4 Marmolejo: Any nays? No nays. Okay so congratulations Chair and Vice-Chair. And
5 of that I will go ahead and move and allow Harold Love to take over the,
6 he's not here? Okay Vice-Chair.

7
8 Murphy: We expected Harold to be here.
9

10 **4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

11
12 **4.1 December 7, 2017**
13

14 Sensiba: Okay. We move on then. So we'll move on to action item number four,
15 the approval of minutes from December 7, 2017. Anybody have any
16 changes?
17

18 Bartholomew: On page 3 of the minutes, on line 14, I think the word "breakthrough" is
19 supposed to be my name, Bartholomew there based on the pattern. And
20 on page 7, line 21 just in the context of it I think the word should be
21 "report" instead of "rapport."
22

23 Murphy: Staff's noted those.
24

25 Sensiba: And do we approve the minutes with the changes?
26

27 Murphy: As amended.
28

29 Sensiba: Right.
30

31 Murphy: Want to ask for a motion to ...
32

33 Sensiba: Motion to ...
34

35 Murphy: Approve as amended.
36

37 Sensiba: Yes. Do we have a motion to approve for the amended changes?
38

39 Bartholomew: I move we approve the amended minutes.
40

41 Trevino: Second.
42

43 Sensiba: All in favor.
44

45 MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.
46

1 Sensiba: Motion approved.

2
3 **5. PUBLIC COMMENT**

4
5 Sensiba: And we have no public here, looks like.

6
7 **6. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

8
9 **6.1 Presentation on the MVMPO Traffic Count Program**

10
11 Sensiba: So we'll move on to item number six, the presentation of the traffic count.

12
13 Murphy: Madam Chair I'd like to present for the Committee Dominic Loya, the
14 Senior Planning Technician for the MPO. He's going to give a
15 presentation on our traffic count program, kind of give you a little insight to
16 some of the work that staff does on a daily basis.

17
18 DOMINIC LOYA GAVE HIS PRESENTATION.

19
20 Bartholomew: I just had a couple questions, with the traffic volume, the traffic count
21 ones, is there effects by, because you're looking at a particular segment.
22 Is there effects based by, like Telshor to Nacho stretch of Lohman, real
23 close to Telshor which is a real heavy corridor so, I know because I drive
24 home that way. There's a lot of traffic congestion and there's not a lot of
25 cars moving through there very fast sometimes because of the cross-
26 traffic on Telshor. Does that affect what, really how busy or heavily used
27 the street is?

28
29 Loya: Madam Chair, Mr. Bartholomew. It can affect, let me go ahead and
30 bounce back to it, so a lot of times what you'll see especially in that
31 section because there are two stoplights, it can affect the flow volume
32 depending on the stoplights, how the cars hit the tubes. Also, this is a
33 traffic count I happened to put out so I do know that at times a car may hit
34 one tube but be parked in the middle of it so it does affect the volume
35 counts slightly because of that and sometimes you can't see it especially
36 with dips at certain times. So we do actually count all segments in that
37 area so we can, and I don't believe we count them in the same year but, I
38 take that back. We did count Telshor from Lohman to Foothills this year.
39 So we can look at that and compare and see if we're seeing at times the
40 way traffic is flowing.

41
42 Bartholomew: Okay. And my other question is just, on the speed ones do you
43 sometimes get anomalies? Because I think on the one, I was looking at
44 the Lohman one that you had, there was somebody at 4:00 in the
45 afternoon that was at 65. I was wondering if that was anomaly or
46 somebody really.

1
2 Loya: Madam Chair, Mr. Bartholomew. Sometimes you do get anomalies
3 because there can be two cars hitting fairly close together, but in some
4 cases it can be somebody playing "beat the light," especially in that area.
5 There are, I'm trying to, actually ...
6
7 Bartholomew: There's several at 70 too, I know.
8
9 Loya: There are several at 70 and at times, usually when we see them during
10 the day it's, a lot of times it's "beat the light." So they'll speed up,
11 especially if they think they can make both lights in that segment. In some
12 cases though it is just the fact that two cars hit so close together ...
13
14 Bartholomew: Okay.
15
16 Loya: That they appear to be going faster than they were.
17
18 Bartholomew: Thank you.
19
20 Marmolejo: I have a question. So most of your, maybe I'm wrong, most of your, can
21 you go to your map please?
22
23 Loya: Certainly.
24
25 Marmolejo: On all of your counts where you laid out your, think you call them baskets?
26 Okay. They're mostly taking a count of the built-up areas within the City
27 proper?
28
29 Loya: So we actually, across the entire MPO we take counts. Down here, this is
30 all out in the County, as well as we do north County and east County. We
31 do have I believe the furthest out west we go is still within the City limits
32 because it's the airport.
33
34 Marmolejo: Right.
35
36 Loya: So we do collect on major roads within the County. That includes NM 28,
37 most of the major crossroads as well, all the way down to Berino.
38
39 Marmolejo: Like 185, I'm thinking like 185s and the 28s and the 478s. I mean do you
40 guys, when you guys pick up anything, a surge, how do you apply, what is
41 it that you guys do when you see some, a surge in traffic counts in a
42 certain roadway that's outside of the City limits? What is it that you guys,
43 how will you apply that or do you just ...
44
45 Loya: Is it, are you talking specifically an increase?
46

1 Marmolejo: Yeah, an increase.
2
3 Loya: In counts, so at that point then you would take a look further at it, seeing if
4 something has changed in the area, land uses, things like that. If not it
5 could be an anomaly at which point we would then recount it, if it turns out
6 to be an anomaly. Now if land uses have changed as you would see out
7 here, say, I can use this example right here. On the City's East Mesa
8 you're going to see a change on North Main as counts go down because
9 people have more, there's more land uses out there that are conducive to
10 what they're doing, commercial, things like that, so you don't have to go as
11 far into town, so we're going to see a drop on roadways on Main Street,
12 whereas if that wasn't there, as it wasn't a few years ago, we're going to
13 see high-volume traffic come down Main Street. So that's the first thing
14 we do, is look to see what's changed, if there is anything that's changed.
15 It could also simply be there's road construction and people are seeking
16 alternate routes, such as if we were to count North Main right now we
17 would come up with a much lower count because of the construction going
18 on at Spitz, Three Crosses, and Solano.
19
20 Marmolejo: Because I see, down the road there's a, and Rene's familiar with this
21 there's Vista Rancho subdivision's coming and it has up to like over 200
22 parcels. It's phased out but that's going to be, it's going to affect I think
23 Elks Road, what's the other one, the Elks Road and that goes east, Taylor
24 Road, and some other roads around that area. And when you have that
25 kind of data does that, are you able to then start looking to or considering
26 the widening or the, or coming up with funding for those roadways, or
27 would that be like Dona Ana County would be the ones who would go that
28 route?
29
30 Loya: So in that case we would provide you with the information and then Dona
31 Ana County would have to decide what route they wanted to take, or the
32 State, depending on if it's a State-funded roadway. So that's what we
33 would do. We would just count it and say, "Okay. Here's what the map is.
34 Here's what it says. We've increased over the last few years because as
35 you said a new subdivision went in." And then you can look at it and say,
36 "Maybe we need to widen this road or maybe we need to look for other
37 ways to relieve pressure."
38
39 Marmolejo: Okay. Thanks.
40
41 Trevino: Tony Trevino.
42
43 Molina: I will ...
44
45 Trevino: Go ahead Rene.
46

1 Molina: Go ahead.
2
3 Trevino: Mine's kind of more of a request. I was intrigued by the decrease in speed
4 along the Solano road diet. I wonder if we can kind of get some of that
5 information in Project Development because we're considering that for
6 South Main between Avenida de Mesilla and Valley Drive. We have a
7 segment between Avenida de Mesilla and Boutz that we're going to be
8 reconstructing so we have some right-of-way issues. We might, we're
9 considering actually a road diet there, but we're still pondering back and
10 forth. So I was kind of intrigued by the reduce in speed. So can you
11 share some of that data with us? Who would be the one to contact, would
12 it be Andrew or who would I get this information from?
13
14 Loya: Actually you can go ahead and contact me and I will get you the
15 information that you need on that, the section of road as well as the areas
16 that we've done road diets before and some of them we do have the
17 before-and after, some of them depending on when the road diet went in,
18 it may be four or five years in between. Because if the road diet went in in
19 the year we're supposed to count and during our count ...
20
21 Trevino: Right.
22
23 Loya: Then we wouldn't have been able to count it.
24
25 Trevino: Yeah, and that's understandable and the latest counts for those segments
26 would be great. So I'll be in touch by tomorrow or next week with you.
27
28 Loya: All right.
29
30 Trevino: Cool. Thanks man.
31
32 Molina: My question was related or in regards to the rating for the roadways and
33 sidewalks and stuff. How did the, you all know that the City and the
34 County did, acquired services of IMS to do road rating on our roadways.
35 We did it, you guys, I think the City completed it probably two, three
36 months prior to us. But is there a comparison? Did you guys look at that
37 data, the road rating data that you guys have established versus what was
38 done by a consultant?
39
40 Loya: Mr. Molina. So no, we have not actually looked at the data from the
41 consultant. This is just when our co-ops go out or they look at the road,
42 they go, "Okay," and this is just for us to be able to say, "Okay, is there an
43 issue?" and it maybe something we might have to point out, saying, "Hey,
44 this," especially if we ended up with like a road rating of one where the
45 road's washed out, pavement's coming up, there are potholes everywhere,
46 to where we can say, "There is an issue here." Most of this is for us but

1 it's also a way just to keep track of what's going on and, because if we're
2 consistently getting nines and tens on a road over a couple of years that
3 means it's being fairly well taken care of. If, yeah, there's a couple roads
4 that because of how everything works with funding that you take care of
5 when you can and it's just a way to keep track of kind of what's going on
6 out there for us, just because that way we can also say if we see that dip
7 in the volume of traffic going through there, the ADTs, we go, "Okay,
8 maybe this is a reason." It's at least a reason that can be looked into.
9

10 Molina: Thank you.

11
12 Sensiba: Thank you. So anything else?
13

14 Bartholomew: I had one more question.
15

16 Sensiba: Okay.
17

18 Bartholomew: Do you have any information out like five-year trends in certain corridors,
19 if you've seen any increases, decreases, has it stayed the same in the
20 traffic volumes?
21

22 Loya: Mr. Bartholomew. It, some do, as I said North Main, depending on what's
23 going on in there because there's been construction over the last few
24 years as well as we do see decreases at times. We don't necessarily
25 track the trends unless they become something specific as in when North
26 Main being reconstructed, we wanted to know what was going on along
27 there, what the trends were. On North Main we did see a decrease in
28 traffic and that included even before the construction, and that's before the
29 round of construction that happened three years ago. There was a trend
30 that was decreasing on traffic there. But as I said that's when you start
31 looking at land uses. So what happened east of the highway, we ended
32 up with a Wal-Mart, we ended up with more services out there,
33 restaurants. So that can be one explanation to why we're seeing that
34 trend, where is if you don't have to go all the way down to Albertson's to
35 get groceries, you can go right there to Wal-Mart, more than likely people
36 are going to Wal-Mart.
37

38 Bartholomew: Okay. Thank you.
39

40 Sensiba: There any other questions? Okay. Thank you.
41

42 **7. COMMITTEE AND STAFF COMMENTS** 43

44 **7.1 City of Las Cruces, Dona Ana County, Town of Mesilla, Las Cruces** 45 **Public Schools, RoadRUNNER Transit, SCRTD Project Updates** 46

1 Sensiba: Moving on to item number seven, the Committee and staff comments.
2 We'll start with City of Las Cruces.
3

4 Trevino: Just an update on two projects that are pretty much in the same status as
5 last month. Roadrunner Parkway, the bid opening is set for January 11th.
6 We did have quite a bit of contractors interested in the prebid so hopefully
7 that is a fairly reasonable bid when we open that up. And Harrelson Road,
8 still waiting on a few storm water and some access permits from NMDOT
9 before that one gets going. So that's it from my end.
10

11 Sensiba: Okay. And Dona Ana County.
12

13 Molina: Yeah. I got two projects. Soledad Canyon, again 70% plans were
14 reviewed and we have meetings going with the utility companies for
15 relocates but we're moving forward and looking at getting that one into
16 construction in September 2018. And also, the next one is LC0110, I
17 think. It's Dona Ana School and El Camino Real. We're working with
18 DOT on right-of-way certification, have been, and soon after we'll move
19 into construction. That's all. Thanks.
20

21 Sensiba: Town of Mesilla. Nobody? Nope. Is anybody from the Public Schools
22 here? No. RoadRUNNER Transit.
23

24 Bartholomew: The City Council approved some route changes we're doing with our
25 routes. We're going to add a route that we were running as more of a
26 demonstration/relief route that provides 30-minute service between the
27 West Picacho area and our intermodal center. That route will become a
28 permanent route and it'll run the same hours throughout the week and
29 Saturday as the other routes. We're also redesigning some routes to get
30 service back onto Solano Avenue, which we had taken away on July 2016
31 when we changed the routes then. So our customers are going to be
32 pretty happy with the route changes there as well. We're going to be also
33 re-serving some other areas of the City with some other minor route
34 changes. So we're looking forward to implementing the bulk of those in
35 March of this year. We're going to make one change to what we call our
36 Route 1 that serves the Elks Road and Del Rey area so that it goes the
37 opposite direction around that loop. The reason we were planning that
38 change is because the VA clinic opening up on Del Rey mid-February and
39 we wanted to make sure the bus was on the same side of the road as the
40 VA clinic. And then we do have the sad report from last week because we
41 had our first-ever transit-related fatality last week on our system. So it's
42 been quite an ordeal going through with that and by all accounts from our
43 perspective it was not our driver's fault but the police report is still pending
44 on that incident. But it was a pretty sad situation.
45

46 Sensiba: SCRTD?

1
2 Bartholomew: They're not here.

3
4 Sensiba: No? Okay.

5
6 **7.2 NMDOT Projects Update**

7
8 Sensiba: NMDOT project updates.

9
10 Herrera: Thank you Madam Chair. Just a few updates for you. Tortugas Road and
11 Thorpe Road are both done, the small sidewalk and drainage projects, so
12 there shouldn't be any more barrels. Both contractors are doing punch-list
13 items but it shouldn't be impacting traffic at all to those two roadways.

14 The big ones, Spitz/Solano/Three Crosses, beware when you drive
15 out there, there is a traffic control change that was implemented today, so
16 we are switching traffic from, let's see, from the southbound lane to the
17 northbound lane so that we can reconstruct. Maybe vice versa. I don't
18 know. Just be careful when you're going through there because the traffic
19 control is changing. But we're still on schedule.

20
21 Bartholomew: Is that one still on track for completion in May ...

22
23 Herrera: Yes.

24
25 Bartholomew: Or whatever it is?

26
27 Herrera: Yeah. It's actually looking like the end of April as long as nothing crazy
28 happens. We're on schedule and actually a little bit ahead. But I'm still
29 going to say end of May.

30 And then the other project that's not currently under construction
31 but will be soon is Valley Drive. We were finally able to award the project.
32 We're still going through paperwork. The bids came in high again but this
33 time they were only \$3 million over versus \$11 million over so that's good
34 news. Hopefully we should be having construction out there in the next
35 three to four months. And that's all I have.

36
37 Sensiba: Thank you.

38
39 **7.3 MPO Staff Projects Update**

40
41 Sensiba: MPO staff updates.

42
43 Murphy: We don't have anything new at this time.

44
45 **8. PUBLIC COMMENT**

1 Sensiba: Okay. And still no public.

2
3 **9. ADJOURNMENT (4:39 PM)**

4
5 Sensiba: So do we have a motion for adjourning?

6
7 Bartholomew: I move we adjourn.

8
9 Herrera: Second.

10
11 Sensiba: All in favor.

12
13 MOTION APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

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19



Chairperson