

[All items in the Board packet for all agenda items are incorporated herewith to these minutes by reference. The original Board packet is on file in the Regional Planning Authority office.]

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- **Minutes from October 19, 2010, Regular Meeting**

Commissioner Holian moved to approve the minutes of the October 19, 2010, Regular Meeting, seconded by Commissioner Vigil, voted on and approved unanimously.

Councilor Wurzburger abstained from voting since she was not in attendance at the meeting.

ELECTION OF 2011 RPA CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR

Commissioner Vigil moved to elect Commissioner Kathy Holian as RPA Chair and Councilor Chris Calvert as RPA Vice-Chair for 2011, seconded by Councilor Wurzburger, voted on and approved unanimously.

Commissioner Holian asked if the County would take over creating the agenda for the January 2011 meeting. Chair Romero explained that the County staff would work on the agenda with the Chair and with Mr. Liming in the transition.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM AGENCIES

- **MPO**

Chair Romero explained that at the last meeting the RPA discussed how to address issues that have been brought to the RPA from tribal members, as well as from the RTD. The direction given to RPA staff was to work with MPO staff to develop a memorandum on the possibilities of doing all the transit issues in one authority. She pointed to a memo dated November 8 and said that Mr. Keith Wilson was present to walk through the possibilities.

Mr. Wilson explained that Mr. Tibbetts prepared the memorandum, but he was ill and so Mr. Wilson would do the presentation to the RPA. He stated that the MPO is governed under federal regulations and has four main goals. To do a long-range metropolitan transportation plan and a short-range transportation improvement program that covers a full year period; to do a unified planning work program that shows how the planning funds will be spent; to maintain a public participation program that outlines how the MPO works and make sure the information is done in a way that the public can be involved.

The federal regulations do not give specific rules related to public transportation planning, which gives flexibility in what can be done with the federal planning funds. In the current unified planning work program there are two specific public transportation related tasks. One is to develop a comprehensive long-range transit and rail study that came primarily from the St. Francis Drive Corridor Study. The conclusion from the study was that there is no way to expand

the capacity of the roadway system and, therefore, there is the need to look for other options through public transportation. As a result, a long-range transit and rail study for the metropolitan planning area will be done to identify goals. The second is a general task that allows flexibility to work on various transit or rail related tasks as they come up. A specific is to facilitate these types of conversations between the RPA and transit operators.

The MPO has a defined planning area that does not encompass the whole county. The MPO is overseen by a policy board made up of representatives from Santa Fe City and County, Tesuque Pueblo and NMDOT. There is a JPA between the four agencies. Anything done under the MPO umbrella has to go through consideration of the policy board.

Commissioner Stefanics asked if the planning area map is set by the federal government and the state or the MPO.

Mr. Wilson stated that the area is set by the MPO in cooperation with the Governor, as worded in the regulations. At a minimum it is supposed to cover the current and future urbanized area over the next 20-year period. The current planning area incorporates quite a bit of the rural area.

Commissioner Stefanics asked if any other communities or tribes within Santa Fe County were invited to participate in the MPO, and would it be more appropriate for them to be on the Technical Coordinating Committee (TCC) or the Transit Policy Board (TPB).

Mr. Wilson said he would have to find out exactly what the logistics would be. He suggested that the policy board could create a specific transit subcommittee.

Commissioner Stefanics said it would seem the TCC might be an appropriate avenue for tribes and municipalities to give input on transit.

Chair Romero stated that the RPA is looking to have an entity such as the MPO that includes greater public involvement than the RPA does in its service plan, and would be an opportunity to consolidate services to save time, energy and money. She suggested that this conversation be brought back to the January meeting. Even if the RPA decides on its direction, the decision-making bodies that have to interact are the RPA, the NCRTD, BCC and City Council.

Councilor Wurzbarger asked if staff could bring the pros and cons of either option for a more thorough discussion and understanding of what the implications are.

Following a request from Councilor Calvert regarding the Regional Planning Organizations (RPO), Mr. Griego explained that the County participates in the monthly RPO meetings. It encompasses a much larger area and includes Santa Fe, Rio Arriba and Taos counties. It addresses specific roads and goes through a STIF process, as opposed to a Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) process.

Mr. Wilson added that projects for an MPO go into a TIP that is specific for an MPO area and are included in the state TIP. The RPO have a TIP for their area, and the NMDOT coordinates directly with the RPO to get the projects into the state TIP.

Commissioner Vigil requested that someone from the RPO come to the January meeting to explain what NMDOT does with the recommendations from the RPO, what is funded and what roads in the rural areas are affected.

Commissioner Stefanics said she would like to know who establishes each entity, whether federal, state or self-made. She also asked if the state has any other model of a streamlined structure from other areas in the state.

Chair Romero explained that the flow chart was put together for the RPA Retreat to show the various organizations involved in transit. She asked Mr. Wilson, Mr. Griego, Mr. Liming and Ms. Ellis-Green to work together and gather the information as requested by the RPA to be brought to the January meeting.

- **NCRTD**

Mr. Jack Valencia reported that the NCRTD was requested to provide a vehicle for a special event, the Open World Leadership Center for which Ambassador O'Keefe is the chairperson, that would have been under the normal governance of the RPA with Rail Runner connections. Congressional dignitaries, staff and state legislators will be shuttled for this event. It was decided to fund this under the NCRTD's administrative funding for a shuttle between downtown and the Governor's mansion on November 30, from 4:30 to 7:00 PM.

Commissioner Stefanics explained that the Open World Leadership Center is related to the Council on International Relations (CIR). The City Council and BCC have participated in training or talking with members from other countries who have come to Santa Fe through the CIR. She said that the invitation extends to the BCC and the City Council for the November 30 event.

Mr. Valencia went on to report that gross receipts taxes collected by the NCRTD from within Santa Fe County for the first two months of this fiscal year, July (\$326,000) and August (\$346,000) 2010, were \$673,530, one-half of which goes to the Rail Runner. The budget revenues are approximately 2.31% above projections. He added that the initial budgets were conservative and collections in all four counties were right on.

The Jim West transit center in Española went out to bid in September. However, the first set of bids was found to be nonresponsive, and the board elected to go out again. A resolution was tabled at the last meeting and will come again before the December meeting.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ITEMS

- **2011 RPA Meeting Schedule**

Mr. Liming presented the 2011 RPA meeting schedule.

Councilor Wurzburger moved to approve the 2011 RPA Meeting Schedule as presented by staff, seconded by Commissioner Vigil, voted on, and approved unanimously.

- **Draft RPA JPA Amendments**

Postponed until January 2011.

INFORMATION ITEMS

- **Open Space and Trails – RPA Funded Project Updates**

Chair Romero explained that Councilor Bushee requested this update at a previous meeting.

Ms. Baker from the County pointed to a joint memo from her and Mr. Pacheco from the City. One particular unique collaboration is nearing completion, the El Camino Rael Trail along a portion of the Santa Fe River Trail near NM 599. This is a property the County purchased from the State Land Office as a right of way, and the City acted as a fiscal agent in getting a Scenic Byways grant for the project. Under the grant, the City put out for a design contract and worked with the County on the design. Delivery of the final design is expected this week. The County is putting in additional GRT revenues to build the trail, which should be in construction in a few months and completed by summer.

Mr. Pacheco added that about a mile of the trail from NM 599 connects to the underpass to the MRC and extends and connects into Agua Fría village. It is anticipated that the trail will go all the way along the Santa Fe River from NM 599 to downtown, although there is still property along the river that has not been purchased.

In response to a question from Commissioner Vigil regarding funds received by the City and the County for Santa Fe River restoration, Mr. Pacheco and Ms. Baker replied they would bring a report back to the RPA for clarification.

Commissioner Vigil asked for a progress report on the trail connection from Frenchy's Field.

Ms. Baker explained that they are slowing down on the conceptual design of the stretch from Frenchy's to Siler Road because there are still properties to be acquired. This is critical, and staff is working with the County Attorney's office. Once those acquisitions are complete, they will pick up the pace on the design phase. Careful timing is needed for this mile of river, and it is expected that a combination of funding through bonds and GRT will bring them close enough to build that section.

Commissioner Vigil asked how the design of the river trail will be blended. Ms. Baker stated that the City had more constraints on adjacent properties than the County and in concept the San Ysidro idea will be followed. A final decision has not been made on the trail surface, and three

alternative trail surfaces are being researched. A balance between cost, maintenance, aesthetics and function is being considered.

Councilor Wurzbarger requested that a trail map be developed to publicize to the community the good news about what is being done.

Chair Romero explained that the good news is the RPA has some funds in the budget for trails, which is the foundation for this discussion to determine connectivity and how the funds can best be used. She noted that people are using bikes and walking more and appreciate the trails and the work the City and County are doing together.

Ms. Baker and Mr. Pacheco reviewed the update included in their joint memorandum for City and County projects and remaining balances.

Commissioner Stefanics requested for the January meeting a joint financial presentation in spreadsheet form from the City and the County on open space and trails expenditures to date, any monies reverted, and what all the rest of the funding including special monies will be spent on. This would include projects that are fully funded and projects that are planned, but do not have full funding.

Councilor Wurzbarger expanded on the request and said that the RPA is asking for the big picture on parks and trails in Santa Fe County and City – who is doing what, where the money came from, what is left to spend and what might be requested in the future

Commissioner Stefanics agreed and stated this also relates to economic development.

In response to requests for more information from Councilor Calvert regarding the Foothill Trail system and the Railyard Park and from Commissioner Holian on the County portion of the Rail Trail, Mr. Pacheco and Ms. Baker replied they would include that in their January presentation.

- **County Capital Outlay GRT Financial Report**

Mr. Liming pointed to a memorandum in the packet explaining funding for the BDD, including the total BDD capital budget and where the city portion of the funding has come from.

Ms. Teresa Martinez explained that the County Capital Outlay GRT spreadsheet is in the format used at the previous meeting and is relative to the regional portion only. The report includes the balances available as of November 16, 2010. She added that she will meet with Ms. Baker to be confirm balances available.

Councilor Calvert referred to the \$9 million for the BDD and asked how many years the 75% of the county outlay was committed for.

Ms. Martinez said that she does not have a final budget number from the city for the BDD. With the assistance of the finance department, she will confirm balances and provide a written report for the January meeting. A total of \$25.6 million has been paid thus far from the capital outlay

GRT, which is fairly close to the original estimate of \$31.5 million. The project should be completed in December and final numbers should be available at that point.

- **Economic Development Task Force Presentation**

Mr. Sills explained that the RPA Economic Development Task Force (EDTF) met recently to discuss putting together preliminary information on the current activities within the County that are related to economic development initiatives in the region. Commissioner Stefanics and Councilor Wurzbarger helped with their suggestions.

There are five components that the City and the County respectively work on. Major categories are critical economic infrastructure, targeted industries, workforce development, business services and regional partnership. Each one of the major categories is broken down by the existing activities and some of the gaps and opportunities. In referring to critical economic infrastructure, there are major categories for activities that are further broken down for specific City, County, joint, broader regional, and other.

Mr. Sill explained the purpose of presenting the information in this way is to provide a snapshot of what is going on within the region with individual entities versus collaborative efforts. He said that this document will continue to be improved on for future presentations to the RPA and brought back to each meeting.

Councilor Wurzbarger stated the intention as a subcommittee was to start with a baseline of what is happening in both the City and the County for structure in conversations about areas of opportunity. Her suggestion is this becomes part of future agendas and to have more time to receive direction from the RPA as to what might be missing.

Commissioner Stefanics commented that staff has started a great matrix. Between now and the next presentation, there is a need to find out what is not on the list. She suggested that SWAMA should be there under solid waste as a city recycling initiative and an economic activity. This presentation was not intended to be a discussion point for people to take off on, but rather for the RPA to give the commonalities.

Councilor Calvert suggested including the City and County efforts on energy conservation efforts in the community that are also economic development opportunities. He added that broadband could affect a lot of the different areas and will probably be more important to getting new businesses here and keeping existing ones.

Commissioner Vigil suggested that the EDTF work with the State Economic Development Office on some of its initiatives being collaborated on with counties. She would suggest an agricultural component, such as chiles and the farmers market, as critical components of economic development.

Chair Romero noted that the broadband is an issue that might rise to the top of what benefits all of the categories. She pointed there will be overlap between the ETF and the EDTF. She said

she will connect with Mr. Duncan on evaluation of food policy programs nationally, as well as more locally, and how that can fit into economic development.

MATTERS FROM THE REGIONAL PLANNING AUTHORITY

- **January Meeting Items**

Commissioner Holian said that she will ask Jack Kolkmeier to make a presentation to the RPA about the County's new Sustainable Growth Management Plan (SGMP). She said she is trying to get a movement started to call it the SG Maps, because that is easier to say and it is a map for the future.

Commissioner Holian said that she will be bringing forward a recommendation from the ETF for a study as a possible action item at the next meeting.

DATE AND TIME FOR NEXT RPA MEETING

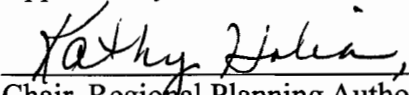
The next regular meeting of the Regional Planning Authority will be held at 3 PM, Tuesday, January 18, 2011, in the County Commission Chambers. The City Finance Committee will follow at 5 PM.

Chair Romero stated there will be two new commissioners at the meeting. For the record, she thanked Commissioner Montoya for his years of service to the RPA. She congratulated the County and staff for passing what may be called the SG Map, which is exciting.

ADJOURNMENT

This Regular Meeting of the RPA was adjourned at approximately 5:30 PM.


Approved by:



Chair, Regional Planning Authority
Rosemary Romero, Santa Fe City Councilor

Minutes transcribed and drafted by Kay Carlson

Attest:



Valerie Espinoza, County Clerk

