

**MINUTES OF THE  
CITY OF SANTA FE / SANTA FE COUNTY  
REGIONAL PLANNING AUTHORITY**

**Tuesday, November 17, 2009**

**4:00 PM**

**Santa Fe, New Mexico**

This Regular Meeting of the City of Santa Fe / Santa Fe County Regional Planning Authority (RPA) was called to order by Chair Harry Montoya at approximately 4:15 PM on the above-cited date in the Santa Fe County Commission Chambers in the County Administration Building.

**ROLL CALL**

**County Commissioners Present:**

Kathy Holian  
Harry Montoya, Chair  
Liz Stefanics *[arrived after roll call]*

**County Commissioner Absent:**

Virginia Vigil

**City Councilors Present:**

Patti Bushee  
Matthew Ortiz  
Rosemary Romero

**City Councilor Absent:**

Rebecca Wurzburger

**Santa Fe County Staff Members:**

Penny Ellis-Green, Assistant County Manager  
Andrew Jandácek, Transportation Planner  
Steve Ross, County Attorney

**Santa Fe City Staff Member:**

Jon Bulhuis, Santa Fe Trails

**Others Present:**

NCRTD  
Peter Dwyer  
Marjorie Kaplan  
Santa Fe MPO  
Mark Tibbetts  
Keith Wilson

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**Councilor Bushee moved to approve the agenda, seconded by Commissioner Holian and approved unanimously.**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM OCTOBER 20, 2009, REGULAR MEETING and OCTOBER 29, 2009 SPECIAL MEETING**

**Commissioner Holian moved to approve the minutes of the October 20, 2009, Regular Meeting, seconded by Commissioner Holian and approved unanimously.**

Councilors Bushee and Romero refrained from voting because they had not been in attendance.

**Commissioner Holian moved to approve the minutes of the October 29, 2009, Special Meeting, seconded by Councilor Romero and approved unanimously.**

Councilor Bushee refrained from voting because she had not been in attendance.

*[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.]*

## **DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ITEMS**

- **Reconsideration of the Previous Approval of the Transit Service Plan for FY 2010**

Ms. Ellis-Green reviewed her memorandum in the Board packet and explained that the Chair has requested reconsideration of the vote taken at the October 29, 2009, meeting regarding approval of transit plan routes. This October 29 decision was in conflict with the decision already made on September 28, 2009, for FY 2010.

Ms. Ellis-Green stated that staff recommends the RPA reconsider the item and approve a Transit Service Plan for FY 2010 under the next agenda item.

**Commissioner Holian moved to approve reconsideration of the previous approval of the Transit Service Plan for FY 2010, seconded by Commissioner Montoya and approved by a vote of 5-0.**

- **Approval of the Transit Service Plan for the Remainder of FY 2010**

Ms. Ellis-Green then referred to her second memorandum in the Board packet regarding the Transit Service Plan for the Remainder of FY 2010. She also included a copy of a portion of the September 28 minutes regarding the Transit Service Plan and the two motions that were unanimously approved at that meeting.

Included in this approval was Route D, existing service reductions, the wording of which caused concern from the NCRTD, and the NCRTD has to approve the Transit Service Plan in order to have the routes reimbursed using the GRT funds.

Because city staff had stated that the funding for Route D, existing service reductions, may not be needed for that purpose, at the October 29 meeting, the motion included changed wording to Route D, contingency funds. There was discussion that these funds could then be used for special services associated with events that are fed by the Rail Runner, for example Indian Market and Folk Art Market.

Ms. Ellis-Green stated that staff's recommendation is for approval of the following routes as approved at the September 28 meeting:

- A-B (combined) Route 2 and 4 Rail Runner enhancements
- E Santa Fe PickUp
- C Route 22 IAIA/SFCC

- P Greater Eldorado Express (Downtown to Edgewood)
- Z Española to Nambé/Tesuque/Pojoaque Pueblos to Santa Fe
- I Los Alamos to Pojoaque
- F Chimayó Fixed Route
- H Pojoaque School Students

The only change to the transit plan approved on September 28 would be the designation of the \$100,000 for Route D to be used for special routes to connect events to the Rail Runner.

Another staff recommendation is that staff be given direction to prepare a letter for the RPA chair's signature that identifies these routes to take to NCRTD and start receiving reimbursements.

Following a request for clarification from Councilor Bushee, Mr. Bulthuis confirmed that initially he had recommended setting aside funds in case future service reductions were needed. However, he said that City Council has not given direction to enter into any future service reductions in addition to what has already occurred.

**Commissioner Holian moved to approve the Transit Service Plan for the Remainder of FY 2010 for Routes A-B, C, E, P, Z, I, F, H, using the \$100,000 slated for Route D, to be used for special routes to connect events for the Rail Runner for FY 2010, seconded by Councilor Bushee.**

Following questions posed to Mr. Bulthuis regarding Santa Fe Trail's position on the recommendation for Route D, Councilor Ortiz asked for a friendly amendment to the motion and suggested the following language for Route D: to be used for special routes to connect events to the Rail Runner for FY 2010 or for contingency items that may be approved by the RPA.

Councilor Ortiz explained that he would like to have language that gives more flexibility so that the \$100,000 for Route D not be tied to just routes for special events.

Councilor Romero asked Mr. Ross if the friendly amendment would mesh with the NCRTD resolution.

Mr. Ross replied that in June 2009 the NCRTD passed a resolution that restricted the RPA to serving new routes, not existing routes. If the motion is to focus on avoiding that problem, some reference should be made to the fact that these are for new routes, as opposed to existing routes.

Councilor Romero asked Mr. Dwyer if using the language of new routes and Rail Runner connectivity would suffice.

Mr. Dwyer replied that the language is regional in nature and is consistent with the requirements of the Regional Transit Act.

Councilor Romero called the question. Commissioner Stefanics objected because she had further questions. The RPA voted against calling the question.

Commissioner Stefanics asked if the routes were listed in order of priority of funding. Ms. Ellis-Green confirmed that the routes were listed in order of priority in the motion made on September 28, 2009.

After input from the Authority members and further discussion on the wording for Route D, the amendment was restated as: Route D, special routes needed to serve special events and/or existing Santa Fe Trails routes that serve connectivity to the Rail Runner.

This wording was accepted as a friendly amendment by Commissioner Holian and seconder Councilor Bushee.

**The motion was voted upon as amended and restated, and passed by a vote of 6-0.**

Commissioner Holian recommended that direction be given to staff to prepare a letter to the NCRTD. Chair Montoya requested that Ms. Ellis-Green draft the letter for his signature.

## **MATTERS FROM THE REGIONAL PLANNING AUTHORITY**

### **• Recommendations to Address Staffing and RPA Direction**

Councilor Romero distributed a memorandum from the second meeting of the staffing subcommittee, which was formed as a result of the resignation of Executive Director Mary Helen Follingstad.

She said that this memorandum incorporates further direction from Councilor Wurzbarger and other members of the subcommittee. Since the subject was taken off the agenda as an action item, it is now an informational item to share with the other Authority members for discussion.

The memorandum includes three recommendations around possible priorities that could be taken on by the RPA, staffing and realignment of the RPA. Priority areas were considered from a programmatic perspective and projects were developed underneath that. Councilor Romero said that the results of this brainstorming session of ideas and possibilities are respectfully submitted for discussion.

Commissioner Holian stated that, in general, the RPA should continue to exist, because there are a lot of issues, and she was in agreement that the RPA work on in common with the city and the county.

Commissioner Stefanics said that she did have the minority opinion that transportation and transit issues could move to the MPO, but other committee members felt it should remain with the RPA due to allocating funds. The GRT and other taxes are the RPA's responsibility to allocate. Regarding staff, because this is a year when both the city and the county are realigning their budgets, she agreed that using county staff while the county chairs and using city staff while the city chairs might be a way of saving dollars. This would leave the RPA funds to spend on

consultants when needed. She said she felt that the report was well presented and appreciated Councilor Romero's work.

Councilor Bushee suggested that under #1 for priorities, the Energy category might be called Resources, such as energy and water or sustainability of resources, and that Trail Development be more appropriately named Open Space and Trails. She said she was not certain where Telecommunications came from.

Commissioner Holian replied that topic would be the upcoming broadband issue.

Councilor Romero pointed to Recommendation #3 that included holding a workshop with city and county decision-makers and specific staff to look back on what the RPA has done, using this as an opportunity to reinvent the RPA, which has happened a couple of times.

Councilor Bushee requested that the staff attorney bring the authorizing legislation for the RPA to the next meeting so that they might look at some of the iterations over the years. If time permits and the Chair agrees to put this on the agenda for the next meeting, she suggested looking at a succinct version of the RPA's history and what would be needed to change its mission.

Councilor Ortiz asked Mr. Ross if Recommendation #2 for Staffing is plausible and would the RPA be required to revisit the provision of its JPA regarding an executive director and funding levels.

Mr. Ross said he would check to see if the RPA is required under its JPA to have an executive director.

Chair Montoya asked Ms. Ellis-Green how she felt the staffing recommendation would work. Ms. Ellis-Green replied that the city and county staffs can try to work together to keep the RPA going if an executive director is not appointed.

- **RPA Meeting Agenda**

Councilor Romero respectfully suggested that the RPA agenda be developed from a consensus perspective because it was a surprise to come to the meeting and see an amended agenda that did not include the subcommittee report as an action item.

Chair Montoya said he was responsible for the change in the agenda because of the importance in addressing the Transit Service Plan. He said that he felt the RPA could discuss the report under matters from the RPA. In the future, he requested that the Authority members notify Ms. Ellis-Green of requested agenda items and that she would let him know what they are.

Councilor Bushee added that she had expected to hear how the RPA might expend what monies exist in the joint GRT and requested that it be included on the next agenda.

Commissioner Stefanics requested that the members be emailed a draft agenda for them to send back with additions and recommendations. She also asked that the grid with potential projects to be funded be brought to the next meeting as a potential action item. She added that she will not be in town for the December 15 meeting.

**DATE AND TIME FOR NEXT RPA MEETING**

The next regular meeting of the Regional Planning Authority will be held at 4 PM, Tuesday, December 15, 2009, in the County Commission Chambers.

**ADJOURNMENT**

This Regular Meeting of the RPA was adjourned at approximately 4:55 PM.

Approved by:

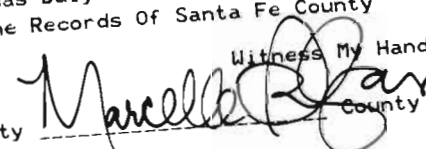
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Chair, Regional Planning Authority  
Harry Montoya, Commissioner, County of Santa Fe

ATTEST:

  
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VALERIE ESPINOZA  
COUNTY CLERK

Minutes transcribed and drafted by Kay Carlson



COUNTY OF SANTA FE )  
STATE OF NEW MEXICO ) ss  
RPA MINUTES  
PAGES: 6  
I Hereby Certify That This Instrument Was Filed for  
Record On The 17TH Day Of December, 2010 at 08:43:15 AM  
And Was Duly Recorded as Instrument # 1620484  
Of The Records Of Santa Fe County  
Deputy  \_\_\_\_\_  
Witness My Hand And Seal Of Office  
Valerie Espinoza  
County Clerk, Santa Fe, NM

