

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



**Tuesday, September 20, 2011
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 Kathy Holian at approximately 4:07 PM on the above-cited date in the Santa Fe County Commission Chambers in the County Administration Building.

ROLL CALL

County Commissioners Present:

Liz Stefanics *[for Robert Anaya]*
Kathy Holian, Chair
Daniel Mayfield
Virginia Vigil *[arrived after roll call]*

City Councilors Present:

Patti Bushee
Chris Calvert, Vice Chair
Rosemary Romero
Rebecca Wurzburger

Santa Fe County Staff Members:

Penny Ellis-Green, Assistant County Manager
Robert Griego, Planning Manager
Andrew Jandáček, Transportation Planner
Teresa Martinez, Finance
Craig O'Hare, Energy Specialist
Steve Ross, Attorney

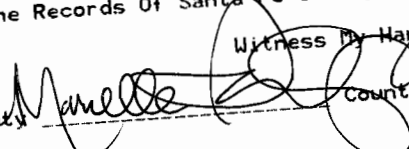
Others Present:

NCRTD
Jack Valencia
Anthony Mortillaro
Mark Tibbetts, MPO

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COUNTY OF SANTA FE)
STATE OF NEW MEXICO) ss

I Hereby Certify That This Instrument Was Filed for
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Deputy )
Witness By Hand And Seal Of Office
Valerie Espinoza
County Clerk, Santa Fe, NM

Santa Fe City Staff Members:

Jon Bulthuis, Santa Fe Trails
Reed Liming, Long Range Planning Dir
Bob Sarr

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Councilor Wurzburger moved to approve the agenda, seconded by Councilor Romero.

Commissioner Mayfield requested that Item V.a., NCRTD Report on Edgewood Route, be taken off the agenda, since Commissioner Anaya was not at the meeting.

REC'D CLERK RECORDED 01/13/2012

Chair Holian explained this was an information item and that Mr. Mortillaro from the NCRTD was present to update the situation on the Edgewood Route.

The motion was voted on and approved with one nay vote cast by Commissioner Mayfield.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- **Minutes from August 16, 2011, Special Meeting**

Councilor Romero moved to approve the minutes of the August 16, 2011, Special Meeting, seconded by Councilor Wurzbarger, voted on and approved.

Commissioner Stefanics abstained.

[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.]

COMMUNICATIONS FROM AGENCIES

- **NCRTD Report on Edgewood Route**

Speaking from the information provided to the RPA members in a handout, Mr. Valencia updated the Authority on the status on the Edgewood route, which began operations on September 6. Because they were unable to use a rider/driver, there are additional expenses for fuel and driver hours, since the driver goes empty from Santa Fe to pick up the passengers in Edgewood. Using a split shift, the driver leaves Santa Fe and returns to Edgewood with passengers and then returns to Santa Fe empty at 8 PM.

The initial route was approved with five stops – Edgewood, Moriarty, Stanley, South Capitol and PERA. Service has been added to the Environment Department and Corrections area near the new Wal-Mart on Highway 14.

Mr. Valencia thanked the County for its assistance in outreach and advertising. There have been community meetings and information included in periodicals, radio ads, signage and distribution of schedules in the service territory.

As a result of expanding the route, mileage, hours to accommodate increased stops, and increased costs using an NCRTD driver incurred during the first month of operation, there is the potential of a \$13,600 deficit for the fiscal year. Mr. Valencia reviewed five options to be considered in order to realign expenses with the approved budget for the route.

In response to inquiries from Commissioner Holian and Councilor Calvert, Mr. Valencia explained that one and possibly two rider/drivers are scheduled to begin training this week for expected implementation at the beginning of October. The decision on the two additional stops came from the operations department to accommodate the rider/driver individual.

Councilor Romero said it is important to understand the process in that the RTD follows the mandate of the RPA, and the RTD board approves what the RPA service plan calls for. She

asked staff to bring the information to this meeting as part of the request from the Authority for regular updates. She suggested this be brought to the next RPA meeting as a discussion and action item so that decisions can be made and clear direction given.

Mr. Mortillaro explained that service was begun on September 6 to meet the commitment. The additional stops were added because that is where the volunteer rider/driver works.

Commissioner Stefanics stated this appears to be a service being offered to a unique small group of people.

Councilor Bushee stated that, while it is difficult to discuss ridership data after only two weeks, this appears to be a heavy subsidy for a very small ridership.

Councilor Calvert said he thought it had been made clear that the budget for service would be provided based on the need to provide a rider/driver. He suggested asking for direction to staff to bring back an option for service within the budget.

Chair Holian stated that this bus service will be on the next agenda under discussion and possible action items.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

There was no public present to address the RPA.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ITEMS

- **Role of RPA (history)**

Mr. Griego presented a memorandum with a brief history of the RPA and the JPA that formed the RPA in 2000.

Chair Holian explained that in August the BCC held a retreat and the RPA was discussed. Questions were asked if the RPA is needed and for what purpose. With that in mind, she put the future of the RPA on this agenda. When she first joined the RPA, it took her a while to understand what the RPA is supposed to be doing, although from the beginning, she always felt it was a venue that created a sense of connection between councilors and commissioners. An important point is that currently the RPA has one official duty – to do the transit planning for the gross receipts tax in Santa Fe County. This means that the existing JPA is out of synch.

Chair Holian stated questions to begin the discussion: Should the RPA continue and, if so, what should its mission be. Should it be expanded to be more regional. How should it be staffed. Currently, staffing is provided by the city when a councilor is chair and by the county when a commissioner is chair. This puts extra work on staff members who already have more than enough to deal with. If the RPA is kept, Chair Holian said there is the need to commit funds for a director.

If the RPA is not kept, additional questions are: Is the NCRTD ready to take over the regional transit planning. Should task forces or committees be created as needed that are staffed by city

and county elected officials on specific topics. Another option might be to have a joint city/county meeting every six months or once a year.

Commissioner Vigil pointed out that the county can make recommendations and statements about the RPA, but it would be a joint decision by the county and the city. From her experience, the RPA has morphed into whatever the needs are based on where both the county and the city are. When the RPA was originally begun, there was a staff and its purpose was directional in terms of land use planning. Her observations are that, first and foremost, the RPA has created a forum for exchange of information on issues that are of common interest. Although not part of the JPA, the morphing of the RPA was created by dealing with things such as the transit plan. The RPA has been a necessary component in providing the opportunity for communication between city and county. This is the time for a new definition, a redirection, a realignment, a refocus, and a new JPA. Her position is that she would be very much opposed to doing away with the RPA.

Councilor Calvert said he did not disagree philosophically. If the transit plan is the main reason for the RPA, joint meetings could be held to decide the transit plan until comfort is reached that the NCRTD can do it on its own. The RPA does not necessarily need regular meetings for communication, which can be done whenever the need arises and things could be discussed at special meetings. He felt that the RPA could handle its current issues in special meetings, which would eliminate the extra staff time and expenses of regular meetings.

Councilor Bushee stated that she is a founding RPA member, and it was an interesting and important exercise to come up with the RPA as something both bodies could agree to do. The RPA was a better venue than any of the other joint meetings between commissioners and councilors over the years, which were usually held because of contentious issues. There had not been a reason to meet and just talk about what the city and county have in common and how to do some things jointly from regional landfill to housing to economic development. A disadvantage the RPA has in terms of the City Council is that the councilors who have never served on it really do not know what the RPA does or appreciate the benefit of these informal meetings. A compromise of sorts might be not to meet as often. Once the land use plan was done and Diane Quarles was gone, the RPA took a different turn and the only thing to address currently is the transit issue. Councilor Bushee would be in favor of remaining as a body. It is important for transit issues and is a much better, more congenial venue for interaction between the city and county. It also brings staff together for many issues as well.

Commissioner Stefanics suggested a new configuration. The dialog between county and city is necessary and having quarterly or twice a year meetings for dialog and debate might be an avenue. A topic that came out of the BCC retreat was having joint government meetings, and the RPA might be that joint group of the total bodies to meet during the year at length and with a specific agenda of topics supported by staff. She did not think the discussion on RPA should be focused on money or staffing, which is an aside. The question is the purpose or goal or worth.

Councilor Romero said she has vacillated between whether the RPA should change and what it should morph into next. She explained that in the beginning the RPA did not give up control over transit because of lack of trust of the RTD. She now feels that the RTD has the staff to develop routes, and she has been working closely with Mr. Mortillaro about developing policy. She feels more comfortable in saying that the RTD can do the transit.

While she has come full circle and agrees there are some pieces to the RPA that could go away, Councilor Romero likes that there is a body that is not specific to any of the other joint groups. There are many things of mutual interest to bring the city and county together more often, and the RPA is one of the few venues that could do that. She would encourage the RPA to meet at least six times a year to provide continuity to give direction for writing grants and address the issues that are moving quickly around energy. There are grants being applied for and discussion of issues that are changing around affordable housing, energy, economic development and trails. The majority of her personal work has been focused on food policy around the country and in the state, which is something everyone can work on because it is food security.

Councilor Romero added that a decision needs to be made for what should go off the table and what should stay on the table. This year the RPA decided to meet every other month to save money. She is cautious about taxing staff and agreed that a different formula is needed.

Councilor Wurzbarger said that she believes in planning and does not necessarily believe in plans that sit on shelves. She is into planning that leads to process and coming up with specific solutions. The RPA is the only body that has the word planning in it. Planning for Santa Fe city and county is not finished. She pointed to a book called *When the Boomers Bail* that deals with a grave economic threat. Five to ten years from now, the nation is not going to be worried about the 14 million people in the country who do not have jobs, it's going to be worried about the job surplus. That might be a very "out there idea" but is realistic. Things such as senior policy cannot be addressed by something like the BDD. She said she is comfortable having the RPA meet every other month and the issue is to redefine the planning objectives of the RPA and to back off and look at the most important emerging issues. Had that sort of thing been done ten years ago, perhaps some of the current budget mess might have been anticipated. Councilor Wurzbarger said she wants to have those debates and does not want to have them casually in the bathroom or in the hallway. There needs to be a forum that brings the different skills and energies of councilors and commissioners together as a body for planning. She said she is willing to continue to work on that and to start by redoing a JPA that has a clarified mission.

Commissioner Mayfield said he definitely sees the importance of the RPA as far as collaboration and discussion. He is also a literal person. A personal issue for him is that he also represents the City of Española that is intertwined with Rio Arriba County and that has significant issues. If this is indeed a regional planning authority, perhaps other areas should be incorporated into the discussions, including places like Eldorado and Edgewood. He would like to take into consideration the other cities and incorporated towns within Santa Fe County that are not just City of Santa Fe residents.

Councilor Calvert pointed out that the councilors' constituency is the City of Santa Fe and that the commissioners' constituency is the County of Santa Fe, which for some of them includes the city. He pointed out that the number one issue to be discussed might be broadband, which is at the core of every economic development issue, be it energy or education.

Councilor Wurzbarger pointed to an amazing regional art corridor project from Albuquerque all the way to Taos that includes Santa Fe city and county. To be competitive, statewide and nationwide, it is necessary to come together to collaborate around current resources, such as art, which is much larger than just City of Santa Fe and includes places like Chimayó. To reinforce

the points that have been made, the organization that might be created would be a think tank mode that is issue oriented, issue identification, solution oriented, rather than just the money part. This would bring to the table different people at different times, depending on the issue.

Commissioner Vigil said that the RPA is an excellent venue for discussing and identifying how to make local government more efficient. The RPA's potential is unlimited. While the idea and purpose for what it was originally created no longer exists, the RPA can still be incredibly dynamic and beneficial to all of the citizens of the city and the county.

Commissioner Vigil pointed to a letter written with her signature to the City requesting a joint governance authority. She has spoken with both city and county staff and found there is a lot of work being done between the managers and staffs on many concerns such as annexation and joint GRTs. She recommended that this work and data supporting it be brought to the RPA for discussions and to be heard in the same place, the same room, from the same people and those working on it before any kind of a public dialog is held.

Councilor Bushee stressed the importance of the RPA and pointed to the sustainable plan being worked on by the city and county. She agreed that broadband is a possibility for a topic area. She said a joint fund overseen by the RPA is a bond to keep the group moving forward. Other joint meetings are usually over a very specific pointed issue that is often contentious and does not develop relationship like the RPA has done. She believes ultimately in a consolidated government and that more and more there are topic areas with joint interests.

Commissioner Stefanics said that another issue is the concept of regional. Besides including Edgewood, she noted that Eldorado was deemed important enough by the US government to be looked at as its own census area during the last census period.

Councilor Romero recalled that Commissioner Montoya had brought forward a subcommittee of tribal interests that he chaired when the RTD GRT dollars came into play and services were being provided for tribes. As a result, there is a tribal subcommittee that meets regularly and brings tribal issues to the RTD. She noted that regional issues are very complicated and how people participate is complicated. This was more defined when the RPA's area was specific to the 5-mile radius. How the RPA might expand needs to have a fruitful discussion around representation and what that means before doing any expansion.

Chair Holian summarized and said she is hearing a consensus for keeping the RPA. She would first like to invite the city and county managers to the next RPA meeting, especially to discuss issues around money, and would like to put off a discussion about the county capital outlay GRT until that point. She also would like to bring forward a possible amended JPA and a way of wording so it allows the RPA more flexibility in the topics it takes on, as well as who might be invited to meetings for issues that are not just between the city and county.

Following further discussion regarding including other entities in the membership of the RPA, Chair Holian stated there should first be the discussion about more concrete things the RPA might engage in, which may lead to who should be included

Since Chair Holian and Councilor Romero will both be unavailable to meet in October, it was decided to keep the November 15 date as the next RPA meeting. Councilor Wurzbarger offered

to be part of a liaison to bring legal staff together. This will give everyone the month of October to plan and pull the agenda together.

INFORMATION ITEMS

• **Energy Task Force Update**

Mr. Craig O'Hare presented a memorandum in the packet with an update on energy-related actions taken at the August 16 RPA meeting. He also sent to the members a summary email on two items acted on at the last meeting. The County has intervened in the PRC case and is working to pool efforts as far as a statement to the PRC about wanting to keep the renewable energy certificate incentive payments at a decent level for at least a couple of more years.

Chair Holian asked what progress has been made on the Federal Qualified Energy Conservation Bonds (QECB) available to New Mexico from the federal government for energy conservation. Mr. O'Hare stated that the Governor's deputy chief of staff will be meeting with Commissioner Vigil once the special legislative session has ended. He added that Paul Gutierrez, executive director of the Association of Counties, has offered to help out as well.

Commissioner Mayfield said he would like to see county staff talk with Jemez Electric Coop to intervene in the tri-state rate case and hoped that perhaps the city could help if it owned anything outside of the city that could be serviced by a rural electric coop.

• **Economic Development Task Force Update**

Councilor Wurzburger said that she and Commissioner Mayfield have decided collaboratively they will meet week after next with staff and bring two issues to the RPA, which may include broadband and film industry.

• **Affordable Housing Task Force**

There was no one in attendance to report.

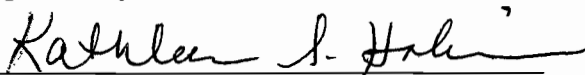
NEXT RPA MEETING

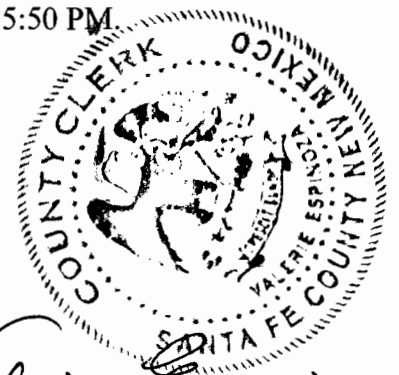
The next Regular Meeting of the Regional Planning Authority will be held at 4 PM, Tuesday, November 15, 2011, in the County Commission Chambers.

ADJOURNMENT

This Regular Meeting of the RPA was adjourned at approximately 5:50 PM

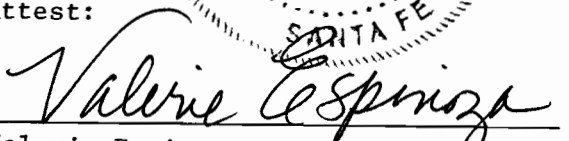
Approved by:


Chair, Regional Planning Authority
Kathy Holian, Santa Fe County Commissioner



Minutes transcribed and drafted by Kay Carlson

Attest:


Valerie Espinoza, County Clerk

SFC CLERK RECORDED 01/13/2012