

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

Monday, September 28, 2009

3:00 PM

Santa Fe, New Mexico

This Special Meeting of the City of Santa Fe / Santa Fe County Regional Planning Authority (RPA) was called to order by Chair Harry Montoya at approximately 3:15 PM on the above-cited date in the Santa Fe County Commission Chambers in the County Administration Building.

ROLL CALL

County Commissioners Present:

Harry Montoya, Chair
Liz Stefanics
Virginia Vigil

County Commissioner Absent:

Kathy Holian

City Councilors Present:

Patti Bushee
Matthew Ortiz *[arrived at 3:35 PM]*
Rosemary Romero

City Councilor Excused:

Rebecca Wurzburger

Santa Fe RPA Staff:

Mary Helen Follingstad, Executive Director

Santa Fe County Staff Members:

Penny Ellis-Green, Assistant County Manager
Andrew Jandácek, Transportation Planner
Steve Ross, County Attorney
Duncan Sill, Economic Dev. Planner

Santa Fe City Staff Members:

Jon Bulhuis, Santa Fe Trails
Mike Kelly, Santa Fe Trails

Others Present:

Jacob Riger, Charlier Associates
NCRTD

Ivan Guillen
Josette Lucero
Marjorie Kaplan

Mark Tibbetts, Santa Fe MPO
Keith Wilson, Santa Fe MPO
Anne Stewart, Girls Inc. of Santa Fe
Rick Lass

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FROM SEPTEMBER 15, 2009, MEETING

Commissioner Vigil moved to approve the minutes of the September 15, 2009, Meeting, seconded by Councilor Bushee and approved unanimously.

[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 THE PUBLIC

• Girls Inc.

Ms. Anne Stewart, Executive Director of Girls Inc., stated that Zona del Sol is an umbrella group of collaborating nonprofits who are creating a comprehensive youth and family service center in Tierra Contenta, which Girls Inc. will lease. Ms. Stewart said that Zona del Sol asked that she bring a request to the RPA for funding of specific construction-related items to make the space safer and more appropriate for the girls. The City of Santa Fe funded approximately \$750,000 for the building addition, from a budget for a little over \$1 million. Therefore, significant pieces had to be cut out of the construction budget. The facility was opened on August 31, 2009, for 41 girls enrolled in the after-school programs. This is the first time there have been two Girls Inc. facilities in Santa Fe in its 54-year history. Even with the huge community support for the project, because of the economy, they have not been able to do the anticipated fundraising.

Councilor Bushee said she assumed that the facility is used by city and county residents and asked if the capital improvements are being sought for the entire facility of Zona del Sol and not just for Girls Inc. Ms. Stewart explained that the facility belongs to the City and the funds would go to the City. Zona del Sol manages the facility on behalf of the nonprofits that use it. Approximately 30% of the girls at Girls Inc. are county residents.

Commissioner Vigil stated that she went to Girls Inc., where she learned many valuable lessons. She asked about transportation needs and if they ever looked to City transit services for assistance, and also how they identify where their girls come from.

Ms. Stewart replied that all of the girls need transportation for after school, which limits their ability to serve more girls. At present, they have two vans and a station wagon. They have not had success in finding alternatives to buying owning their vans. This year, they pick up girls at Cesar Chavez, Ramirez - Thomas, Sweeney, and Piñon schools. In the applications, we use zip codes to determine where the girls come from

Commissioner Stefanics added that Zona del Sol serves constituents in both her and Commissioner Anaya's areas.

INFORMATION ITEMS

- Transit**
 - NCRTD member report**

Commissioner Romero noted that staff from the NCRTD is in attendance at this meeting. She said the NCRTD will be opening up a facility in Española with a grand opening on Friday,

October 09, 2009. The public is welcome. This site will consolidate Northern New Mexico in one place. The facility was funded from stimulus dollars.

Commissioner Stefanics reported that the coordination and cooperation committee continues to look at how routes can be added and how new members can be added to the board. Issues addressed are what will happen if there are not enough funds from the GRT and what will happen when Los Alamos County stops their contribution. A suggestion from the committee is that all priorities be included in the service plan that is passed on to the NCRTD, even if they are not currently fundable. Once the service plan is approved by the NCRTD with those priorities, if future additional funding is obtained, they could begin those new routes. Therefore, the service plan should not just be limited to top priorities, but should be as inclusive as possible. The coordination committee has a process for evaluation, by which needs assessment and ridership is done through a fiscal report by staff and support to go forward from the local bodies.

- **Energy Task Force**
 - **Report from the Chair on Energy Task Force meeting September 25, 2009**

Since Ms. Holian was not in attendance, Ms. Follingstad presented the professionally generated minutes from the September 25, 2009, meeting of the Energy Task Force.

Ms. Follingstad reported that, according to various analysis from the County legal department, it has been determined that the Energy Task Force meetings fall under the Open Meetings Act. This requires that minutes be professionally recorded and prepared for an accurate, unbiased result of what was discussed. At the RPA's mid-year budget review, funds will need to be added to the publishing line item and also under the reporting and recording line items. In response to questions from Councilor Bushee and Commissioner Stefanics, Ms. Follingstad explained that there are adequate funds under the budget category to cover the ETF but the line items will need adjustments. She will include this as an action item for the October 20, 2009, RPA meeting.

- **Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO)**
 - **Report from MPO Staff**

Ms. Follingstad stated that there is a meeting of the Transportation Coordinating Committee this afternoon, which is the staff level of the Transportation Policy Board to the MPO, and that MPO staff will join the RPA meeting as soon as they are available.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION ITEMS

- **Presentation, discussion and possible action on the Transit Service Plan**

Ms. Follingstad noted that materials for this item are in the members' packets that include various charts to use to prioritize preferences for the city and county members. She pointed to a memorandum from Jon Bulthuis related to City Council members' preferences and said that Ms. Penny Ellis-Green was also in attendance with information related to interviews with the County Commission members.

Consultant Jacob Riger explained that the technical information was presented at the September 15, 2009, RPA meeting and that the members asked for an opportunity to meet with their staffs to

discuss individual priorities to bring back to this meeting. He prepared a summary of rankings based on those meetings with the staffs. He apologized to Commissioner Vigil for the mistake in her rankings, which were not correct on the spreadsheet, but were corrected in the master file, which slightly changes the ordering of the projects, but does not change overall conclusions.

Mr. Riger took the Authority members through the spreadsheet that reflected the individual priority rankings. A second handout shows the average ranked priorities from the first sheet to show cost and revenues. The bottom line is that the Authority needs to agree on prioritization of existing routes it wants to continue to fund. Then to the extent there is money available, to prioritize new services, even if there is not money to fund all of them at this time. The value of this is to have a plan in place, for when the money becomes available.

Commissioner Stefanics asked if there were numbers that support ridership of routes such as 22, which goes to areas in the county and to IAIA.

Mr. Bulthuis explained that the city has ridership numbers for all of the routes. Route 22 has been going on for about six months and produces the lowest number of rides compared to other routes requested to be funded by the GRT. He added that the industry standard to build up to an average ridership is 12 to 18 months. The segment of the route between Santa Fe Place and the ISD office is being well used, but less so as it goes toward Rancho Viejo and the Community College District. If there is a realignment to tie the route into the NM 599 Rail Runner station, the east-west movement could come up significantly in terms of productivity.

Ms. Penny Ellis-Green said that she and Ms. Follingstad met with all of the County Commissioners and reported that the Greater Eldorado Express (GEE) downtown to Edgewood was one of the highest ranked priorities, along with the existing Santa Fe Trails SFCC/IAIA route and Pojoaque schools students. Along with her memorandum, she presented Exhibit B, the NCRTD spreadsheet, listing where the funding comes from for the existing routes in Santa Fe County for Fiscal Year 2009. There are existing services that are either fully or partially funded by matching funds, either federal, tribal or Rio Arriba County. The federal or tribal grants for FY 11 will be known by the end of 2009.

To address an issue brought up at a previous RPA meeting, Ms. Ellis-Green explained that the resolution between the County and the NCRTD states that the NCRTD will keep 14% of the GRT. Each of the four counties will be responsible for \$250,000 of administrative costs, which includes salaries, benefits, advertising, public outreach, audit fees, software, computer repair and maintenance, general liability insurance, contractual services such as legal and IT, office supplies, travel and training. The 14% will cover Santa Fe County's share and there will be approximately \$22,000 remaining for this year. She has spoken to NCRTD staff who said they would be willing to look at using the remaining funds for connecting the Rail Runner to a special service, i.e. there may be runs to the ski basin, the County may partnership with Pojoaque Pueblo for music events at the Downs, Folk Art Market, and other existing events that the City has as well.

Commissioner Vigil asked if the \$22,000 would carry over and accumulate if it is not used this year. Ms. Josette Lucero from the NCRTD replied that it would.

Mr. Bulthuis referred to his memorandum that provided an outline of staff recommendations for local transit priorities for the City, which recommends that existing Santa Fe Trails (SFT)

connections to the Rail Runner be maintained, including deviations and added service in the fixed route system, as well as the Santa Fe PickUp. Because the City has incurred budget reductions over the past six months that may cause SFT to reduce service on the street. The Transit Advisory Board (TAB) is concerned that service reductions may be necessary if revenues do not improve and has asked that a recommendation be brought forward requesting that funds from the GRT be utilized.

Mr. Bulhuis pointed to additional connections that make sense if a Rail Runner stop develops at Zia Road and maintaining rural service on route 22 is also recommended, possibly modifying it to serve the NM 599 station or perhaps NM 14. He added that there is always the need to make connections to special events that take place within the City and the County and finished reviewing the points in his memorandum.

Chair Montoya asked Mr. Riger for his recommendations.

Mr. Riger said that first the RPA should look at existing service and in what order it should be considered in the event it cannot all be funded. He said it will help to have a prioritized list of existing services before looking at new services. While there are political jurisdictions represented, he noted that a regional transit system is being built with a tax that has specific funding mechanisms to it. He urged the Authority to ask what can be funded to make this a regional system.

For the record, Commissioner Vigil noted that her recommendations as listed were totally wrong and asked that it be corrected to become part of the public record. Mr. Riger said he would do so, as soon as he can get to a printer.

Mr. Riger went on to review the conclusions on the spreadsheets that are used as a tool to reach conclusions on costs of services and average ranked priorities. He said that the priorities would automatically be updated as they are changed. In the current three-quarters fiscal year, from October 1, 2009, through June 30, 2010, which accounts for the three-month lag in the GRT, most all of the services that had previously been identified as priorities can probably be funded.

Based on the corrections to include Commissioner Vigil's recommendations and combinations as noted by Mr. Bulhuis, Mr. Riger reviewed the top services as discussed by the Authority:

- Priority #1 is "A" Route 2 Rail Runner enhancements and "B" Route 4 Rail Runner enhancements
- Priority #2 is "D" existing service reductions
- Priority #3 is "E" Santa Fe PickUp
- Priority #4 is "Y
- " San Ildefonso-Santa Clara-Santa Fe
- Priority #5 is "P" Existing Greater Eldorado Express (GEE) route
- Priority #6 is "C" Existing Route 22, IAIA/Santa Fe Community College route

In response to a question from Commissioner Stefanics as to whether the 86% can be used for supplementing routes, Mr. Ross replied that the ruling says "specific transit needs within the County and City of Santa Fe," and there are no limitations, except for the criteria adopted by the RPA at previous meetings.

Councilor Romero commented that Mr. Riger used the criteria adopted by the RPA to help drive the decision on the services. Ms. Follingstad added that the "TGRT funding eligibility criteria" adopted at the July 21, 2009, RPA meeting was included in the members' packets.

Councilor Ortiz said he felt that Mr. Riger and both county and city staffs had done a good and decent job of coming up with an ordering process to be used to evaluate the projects and the existing and potential new service. He added that the eligibility criteria number two was clear and specific in terms of giving the RPA justification for making recommendations about existing services and fits within the kind of service recommendations received out of SFT in terms of the list of priorities within the city. Councilor Ortiz said he felt that the Authority needs to look at services there is budget for and to list those as a priority.

Commissioner Stefanics repeated what she said when she did the report for the NCRTD. While it is known that only certain items could be funded, other items should be included in the service plan for the NCRTD in the event that extra funds are realized, so that they can move ahead to start those routes because there is always the possibility of more federal funds.

Councilor Ortiz said he understood the process that was an equivalent to the ICIP process, but the decision to be made today is to first list the priorities for a sustainable plan for the available money projected in the next fiscal year using the criteria approved by the RPA in July.

Following further discussion about the routes funded by federal funds and other counties, Mr. Riger stated that the NCRTD has been clear that those arrangements may not necessarily continue. The NCRTD has said they are trying to more equitably balance the costs between the counties, and Los Alamos and Rio Arriba counties have been subsidizing service that perhaps Santa Fe County should have been paying for. Also, some of the tribal and federal grants are not to be counted on continuing over time.

Because she did not think that priority #4, "Y" San Ildefonso-Santa Clara-Santa Fe, did not meet the criteria, Councilor Romero suggested it be excluded.

Councilor Ortiz suggested that he make a motion that, having reviewed the information presented to the RPA by the consultant and by staff, the five priorities that best meet the four criteria the RPA adopted in July are those items listed as A, B, D, E, C and P. If that is successful, he would have a condition on the next level, because he felt there would still be monies available after those priorities.

Councilor Ortiz moved that the first tier priorities recommended for funding by the RPA are A-B (combined), D, E, C and P, seconded by Councilor Bushee. The motion was voted upon and approved unanimously by a voice vote of 6-0.

Councilor Ortiz stated that, with the approval of that motion for the first tier priorities, he calculated the balance would now be left at about \$265,000. He suggested the second tier of priorities would be those items in which there are regional agreements with other counties. He asked Ms. Ellis-Green to list those agreements.

Ms. Ellis-Green replied that Española to Santa Fe (Z) is matched with Rio Arriba County. The Chimayó fixed route (F) is matched with Rio Arriba County. The Pojoaque school Students ((H) is matched with Rio Arriba County. Los Alamos to Pojoaque (I) is a three-way split with Los

Alamos County, Española and Santa Fe County. For this year, Tesuque Pueblo (J) is fully funded by federal funds and tribal grant, but the funding situation for next year is not known.

Councilor Ortiz noted that the consultant made mention that the NCRTD is strongly encouraging Santa Fe County to take up more of the percentage for those routes. He asked if Santa Fe County will be asked to shoulder all the responsibility for the other two counties.

Ms. Kaplan explained that, in the past, the NCRTD has not asked Santa Fe County to pay anything towards the routes that are running through the county, and historically, Rio Arriba and Los Alamos have been shouldering the burden on Santa Fe County's behalf. The NCRTD is now asking that be more equitable. There are other routes that have been funded by Los Alamos County as seed money, which they will not continue to do.

Councilor Ortiz noted the condition that Santa Fe County had for staying within the NCRTD and not having its own transit system was that the RPA, which is made up of city and county elected officials, would get to decide the priorities and would have complete control over the 86% of the 50% of the GRT. He said that it distresses him to hear that the NCRTD is looking to set the priorities or the conditions for how money will be spent in the City and County of Santa Fe, which is contrary to the resolution that was adopted. He said that the city and the county were given assurances by politicians and the NCRTD director that the GRT money was going to be handled by the RPA. He said he wanted to state unequivocally on the record that the RPA is the body that has the authority to make those prioritizations, and it is not going to feel back-channel pressure to accommodate priorities within a region for funding routes.

Ms. Josette Lucero said she did not hear the consultant say that the NCRTD was going to set the priorities for the RPA, which she said the NCRTD is not going to do. But if it is the RPA's decision to not continue with existing routes, most of which are in northern Santa Fe County, then they will have to stop at the Rio Arriba County border. She pointed to the decision just made for prioritized routes that did not include existing services currently provided by the NCRTD, and so that service would end in two days.

Commissioner Stefanics added that this is not an easy topic and it is complicated to understand who is paying what and how long it all will continue, because there are federal and tribal funds and Los Alamos County subsidizing some of what is in overall Santa Fe County. Perhaps the RPA did not know that these routes were also being expected to be subsidized or cut and there is not enough money for all of it. She pointed out that there are existing routes that might have to be discontinued, which will have an economic impact upon the community.

Councilor Bushee pointed out that today's meeting was advertised for 3 to 5 PM and suggested that the rules be suspended to continue the conversation.

Councilor Ortiz moved to suspend the rules and continue the meeting past five o'clock, seconded by Councilor Bushee, voted upon and approved unanimously 6-0 by voice vote.

Councilor Bushee noted that there was approximately \$265,000 of funds that remain for the current fiscal year.

Councilor Bushee moved that proposals for the best use of the approximately \$265,000 be brought to the next regular RPA meeting, seconded by Councilor Ortiz for discussion.

Mr. Lucero reiterated that the current shared services not approved by the RPA would have to cease in two days.

There followed discussion about the routes that would be discontinued, how they might be funded, and which routes would continue.

Councilor Ortiz added the costs for Pojoaque School Students (H), Los Alamos to Pojoaque (I), Chimayó fixed route (F) and Española to Santa Fe (Z) and said they came to an amount of approximately under \$120,000 for the three-quarters of FY 2010. Using the consultant's spreadsheet shows that is a manageable number. If these routes are funded as the second tier of priorities on the list, there would be no disruption in service.

Councilor Bushee suggested amending her motion so that the remainder of the funding come back with suggestions to be expended.

Councilor Ortiz suggested amending Councilor Bushee's motion, that the second tier priorities be Pueblo Express Routes (Z), Los Alamos to Pojoaque (I), Chimayó fixed route (F), and Pojoaque School Students (H). For a third tier, he asked that staff and the consultant coordinate with the NCRD to come up with a value ranking meeting the criteria for the remaining balance of money available.

Councilor Bushee said that she would accept Councilor Ortiz's friendly amendment to her motion.

Commissioner Vigil asked Ms. Lucero if she understood that there was sufficient funding for both tier one and tier two and that there would be no current routes discontinued. Ms. Lucero confirmed she was comfortable with those motions and affirmed that no current routes would be discontinued.

The motion was voted upon, as amended above, and approved unanimously with a voice vote of 6-0.

- **Discussion and possible action on Regional Capital Outlay GRT matters**

Ms. Follingstad referred to her memorandum in the members' packet regarding the background for the capital projects evaluation process. At the July 21 meeting, the RPA adopted joint regional capital project evaluation criteria and ranking matrix for the purpose of considering the regional GRT capital outlay funds. At the same meeting, the county attorney presented a memorandum (which is also included in the members' packet) regarding state law and county ordinance and how those funds are to be used. With respect to the funds for maintenance operations, it was determined the statute is specific and the monies are to be used for capital improvements, and maintenance is not a capital expenditure. Recently, RPA members have been approached by Girls Inc., Zona del Sol, for construction monies and also have been approached for funding for open space of Sun Mountain. She also included a spreadsheet from the county

finance department showing how much money is in the account. The category for funds is "Other," and the bottom line what is available to spend.

Councilor Ortiz noted that each request meets some but not all of the criteria adopted on July 21. He said the criteria was adopted to be a filter that a request needs to pass through, like a screen. He said that he appreciates the very good work that Girls Inc. does but did not feel that the RPA had enough information.

Councilor Ortiz moved to postpone this item to the next regular RPA meeting on October 20, seconded by Councilor Romero.

Commissioner Stefanics said her first concern was that the RPA should have further information, and she is not advocating for any specific project. She also said her memory was that the RPA had voted on appropriating some money to the city and county open space and trails for improvements within the last three months.

Ms. Follingstad replied that no motion or approval was given, but there was commentary and questions for staff about what can be done with these moneys. She stated that Zona del Sol and Sun Mountain have only within the last week submitted letters for application.

Councilor Bushee said she felt it would be appropriate for the RPA to give funds to Zona del Sol and asked how much would be available to consider expending.

Ms. Follingstad replied that there is \$758,150 available in the "Other" category. She added that Zona del Sol belongs to the City of Santa Fe and meets the criteria.

Mr. Ross pointed out that the spreadsheet has an "Other" category and one for "Roads," but they are all one category with about \$1.2 million available.

Councilor Romero said she was not comfortable acting based on the information at hand, and that the process to allocate the funds be put on the agenda for October 20.

Councilor Bushee said she would not be at the meeting on October 20 and would like to be present for the discussion.

Following a suggestion by Councilor Romero to withhold recommendations on funding any particular process until the November meeting, Councilor Ortiz agreed to accept the friendly amendment to his motion.

Councilor Bushee said that too many applications would be received if the available funds were advertised.

Councilor Ortiz added that there is another equity argument that, just because Zona del Sol has been in the queue for a long time, it does not give them special status, vis-à-vis other potential projects. He said he supports Councilor Romero's position that the RPA has now adopted criteria. Typically, when public monies are allocated, a ranking order is done. Other people have not been told that the RPA is funding any other project, except for those specifically enumerated under state law and under county ordinance. He felt that the RPA should come up with a process that needs to be a real process, not just a hand-picked selection as has been done in the past.

Commissioner Vigil called for the question.

Commissioner Stefanics asked for a point of clarification. Before voting, she would like to know how the city-county programs would be able to access this money if it is being put out as an RFP to the nonprofit world. She noted that the city and county have lean budgets, and some of their programs could benefit from this money.

Chair Montoya cautioned that these projects have to be on either the city or the county ICIP and this cannot be put out for an RFP.

Commissioner Stefanics asked what the motion was.

Councilor Ortiz restated the motion, that the RPA is specifically not going to make any funding requests until at least November of this year, and that staff is being directed to come up with a process to ensure that whatever applications come in are screened through the eligibility criteria adopted by the RPA on July 21.

Commissioner Vigil expressed her concern about current priorities that have been put in place through the RPA, and she has advocated for funding of open space and trails, which are now insufficiently funded. She agreed that the RPA needs to look at previous priorities. She pointed to high priority joint city-county road projects involving serious safety issues. She added that the county has over 30 projects on the ICIP list that are easily joint city-county projects.

The motion was voted upon, as amended, and approved unanimously by voice vote of 6-0.

MATTERS FROM STAFF

- **Budget for Energy Task Force**

This item was discussed at the beginning of the meeting.

- **Transit Project Budget**

Ms. Follingstad stated that the transit project has become more complex than anticipated when the budget for it was established. She suggested that the Charlier contract be amended for additional funds, which are available in the RPA budget. She said that she will put it on the agenda for October 20. Following approval, there will be an amendment to the contract process with the county attorney's office and the county finance office.

Mr. Riger said he felt that \$22,000 would cover the additional scope of services to finish out the project, for travel and complexity, to finish writing the report, and to identify the last set of projects.

- **Mary Helen Follingstad Retirement Notice**

Ms. Follingstad stated that she will retire October 30, 2009, and will provide the RPA with a formal letter giving 30 days notice. The October 20 meeting will be her last meeting.

Councilor Romero recommended that a subcommittee be put together to determine the next steps and how to proceed with filling the position.

Commissioner Stefanics thanked Ms. Follingstad for her service. With reference to Councilor Romero's recommendation for a subcommittee, she referred to a discussion at the last meeting about revisiting the need for the RPA and suggested this as an appropriate time to examine the RPA seriously.

Councilor Romero suggested the subcommittee meet informally and said she would take the lead on organizing it. She said that she will ask Councilor Wurzburger if she would be a part of the subcommittee, along with Commissioners Stefanics and Vigil.

MATTERS FROM THE REGIONAL PLANNING AUTHORITY

Councilor Ortiz said that he has also questioned the existence of the RPA. However, he stated that should the RPA be dissolved, the agreements on funding mechanisms for the RPA and the NCRTD that were crafted as political compromises between the governmental bodies would be opened up as well. He said that there needs to be a revisiting of how the city and county apportion those expenses, because it does not all just revert to the county.

Commissioner Stefanics added that one of the reasons for the discussion of revisiting the purpose of the RPA is because the MPO works on transportation and is a city-county group with equal representation. In the discussion, transference of some of this responsibility or authority might be recommended.

Councilor Ortiz pointed out that there are now two non-elected members on the MPO, a representative from DOT and a representative from Tesuque Pueblo.

Ms. Follingstad stated that the southern and northern parts of Santa Fe County are not represented on the MPO, which could entail with respect to transit an amendment to the boundary of the MPO to include the entire county.

Councilor Ortiz commented that would encompass the four other pueblos and potentially the home rule community of Edgewood.

Mr. Riger said that he is a former MPO planner and said that the boundary for an MPO is actually set by the federal government on very strict requirements about urbanization and other criteria. It is not an easy thing to amend that boundary just for these sorts of planning purposes. In response to Commissioner Stefanics, Mr. Riger stated that the MPO is the federally designated defined urbanized area of Santa Fe County, of which the MPO is responsible for planning within an urbanized area. That is all from federal statute, and that is why, flowing from that definition, it is so difficult to amend the boundary. It cannot be done just for political purposes.

Ms. Follingstad said that there is a Joint Powers Agreement (JPA) for the RPA that is approved by the Department of Finance & Administration, and it is a long process to amend it. She will include necessary information on the October 20 agenda.

Councilor Bushee also suggested that when the subcommittee meets, it looks at all of the other tasks the RPA took on as a priority and what would be affected if it were to disband, such as the Energy Task Force and housing.

DATE AND TIME FOR NEXT RPA MEETING

The next regular meeting of the Regional Planning Authority will be held at 4 PM, Tuesday, October 20, 2009, in the County Commission Chambers.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the RPA, this Special Meeting was adjourned at approximately 5:50 PM.

Approved by:



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

Minutes transcribed and drafted by Kay Carlson

ATTEST:

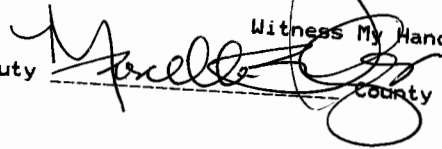


VALERIE ESPINOZA
COUNTY CLERK



COUNTY OF SANTA FE)
STATE OF NEW MEXICO) ss RPA MINUTES
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I Hereby Certify That This Instrument Was Filed for
Record On The 27TH Day Of May, 2010 at 09:12:31 AM
And Was Duly Recorded as Instrument # 1599895
Of The Records Of Santa Fe County

Deputy  Witness My Hand And Seal Of Office
Valerie Espinoza
County Clerk, Santa Fe, NM