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 SFMPO-TPB MEETING
 May 12, 2011**

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**MINUTES OF THE
SANTA FÉ MPO
TRANSPORTATION POLICY BOARD
May 12, 2011**

CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Santa Fé MPO Transportation Policy board was called to order on the above date by Board Chair David Coss at approximately 4:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers at City Hall, 200 Lincoln Avenue, Santa Fé, New Mexico.

ROLL CALL

Roll call indicated the presence of a quorum as follows:

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Mayor David Coss, City of Santa Fé, Chair
Commissioner Virginia Vigil, Vice Chair
Commissioner Robert Anaya, Santa Fé County
Dep. Sec Katherine Bender, NMDOT
Councilor Patti Bushee, City of Santa Fé
Commissioner Liz Stefanics, Santa Fé County
Councilor Ron Trujillo, City of Santa Fé

MEMBERS EXCUSED:

Mr. Ryan Suazo Hines, Tesuque Pueblo

STAFF PRESENT:

Mr. Mark Tibbetts, MPO Officer
Mr. Keith Wilson, MPO Planner

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Councilor Bushee moved to approve the agenda as presented. Councilor Trujillo seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous voice vote.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

February 10, 2011

April 14, 2011

Commissioner Stefanics moved to approve the minutes of February 10, 2011 and April 14, 2011 as presented. Commissioner Anaya seconded the motion and it passed by majority voice vote with all voting in favor but Councilor Trujillo who abstained.

A. MATTERS FROM THE PUBLIC

There were no matters from the public.

B. PUBLIC HEARING

1. Approval of the FFY 2012-2015 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

Mr. Wilson provided a summary and explained they had to create a new TIP every four years. October 1 - September 30 was the fiscal year.

In September, staff sent out a request for projects for this TIP. There were tie-overs from the previous TIP. A number of project information forms (PIFs) were received from the County and the City for what they wanted included. The TCC was charged with developing it. They went through a ranking process and the table in the packets shows the priorities. There were four that were submitted for consideration. The TCC looked at a number of factors and scored them.

The first and second priorities were the Cerrillos Road Section 2C - from Camino Carlos Rey to St. Michael's and a corridor study for the NE and SE connectors. The NE was known as Rabbit Road through Oshara Village to connect directly to Richards Avenue.

Commissioner Vigil asked if that was the same as the alignment the County approved. The County did approve a connector road.

Mr. Wilson wasn't sure.

Commissioner Stefanics said what the County approved was a temporary road for Oshara to carry over to a permanent one. It would still make it accessible to people living there but would be accessible to more people this way.

Mr. Wilson said the SE connector would come off of the NE connector and cut a corner of SFCC to Rancho Viejo. The study would determine if they needed to build these roads and decide the proper alignment.

Commissioner Stefanics clarified a recent controversy on new entrances to SFCC. Those were needed

because of congestion. The people near there felt the SE connector needed to be done first. There were about 100 people who came to the SFCC public hearing.

Chair Coss saw some letters in the public comment.

Mr. Wilson said those two top priority projects would be submitted and District 5 had funding for them. The District covers Santa Fé and Farming MPOs and 3 RPOs. They said they could fund Cerrillos Road and the location study.

So that brings us to the document that needed approval. The format was changed a little. It was done before on a spread sheet that forced a three year project to be listed three times. So this format makes it easier to look at a project and the public could see it more clearly.

They were now using a Microsoft database to keep track of all the projects and that makes changes much easier. The summary sheet at the beginning shows all of the changes.

The original schedule called for the TPB to approve it in April but DOT shifted funding around so it had to be revised and sent out for an additional 30 day period for public review.

Commissioner Vigil asked if this was like a frontage road.

Mr. Wilson noted that Rufina stopped at Harrison Road and started at South Meadows. This would extend it further north to Carlos Rey with a traffic signal at Cerrillos Road to improve the connector.

Councilor Trujillo asked if it would stop at Rufina.

Mr. Wilson agreed it would for now. In the Long Range Plan for Future Roads it only showed that much.

Commissioner Vigil asked if the Rufina Street project was just for a study.

Mr. Wilson said it was for construction and it was not selected for submission in the TIP.

Commissioner Vigil asked about the Camino Estrada project.

Mr. Wilson said that would be a resurfacing project up to the top at Camino La Tierra. This was a County project but not selected for funding yet. When the County gets money for design, it could be done. The summary table shows the ones selected for funding.

Commissioner Anaya asked if these were the only projects that the County brought forward. Mr. Wilson agreed.

Commissioner Anaya asked Andrew Jandáček why there were only two.

Mr. Jandáček said these were the only projects that Public Works brought forward.

There were no comments from the public regarding the 2012-2015 TIP.

Commissioner Stefanics moved to approve the 2012-2015 TIP. Councilor Bushee seconded the motion.

Councilor Bushee said she didn't see the 599 project on the chart.

Mr. Wilson explained it was because 599 was already listed in the current TIP so it was not a new project.

Councilor Bushee noted under enhancement it had pedestrian at South Capital. She wanted to know about bike improvements on this TIP.

Mr. Wilson said if any were eligible for federal funding a PIF needed to be submitted.

Councilor Bushee said they needed to connect and have ROW and shoulders for bikes from Siler Road to La Tierra Trails.

Mr. Wilson clarified that typically Public Works submitted the PIF. MPO staff didn't initiate them. Right now there was not any allocation of funds for that. The MPO works with the District to make sure we get funding from them.

Councilor Bushee asked what the reality was for funding the Acequia Trail across St. Francis. She thought they could get a lot done for other connections with money.

Mr. Wilson said these were the projects that were submitted and he assumed they went through some approvals before they got to the MPO. This list would be kept and as funding becomes available for additional projects the MPO would look at them.

Councilor Bushee asked how many would get funded.

Mr. Phil Gallegos explained that DOT would get about \$1.4 million in enhancement funds and those in the STIP had been selected from the 3 RPOs and 2 MPOs. They were only working on historical figures because the feds haven't approved a new funding. DOT committed the funds they thought they would get but if it was more, these others could be considered through a PIF submitted to the MPO-TCC. There was no additional money now.

Councilor Bushee asked for the source of the \$1.25 million match.

Mr. Wilson believed it was from the parks and trails bond.

Commissioner Stefanics noted to Andrew Jandáček that when the NE & SE Connector got finished the trails would have to be included.

Councilor Trujillo asked Mr. Gallegos about the bridge projects and the status of the bridge on St.

Francis over St. Michael's Drive. Huge icicles had formed in the last few years. It was already about 30 years old. He asked what the long range plans were for that bridge.

Mr. Gallegos replied that there was no plan at this time. The bridge was in fairly decent shape. They hadn't had to do much maintenance but might look at improving the drainage issue.

Commissioner Anaya said he would vote for the TIP but looked forward to additional projects from the County.

The motion passed by roll call vote with Councilor Bushee, Mayor Coss, Dep. Sec. Bender, Commissioner Anaya, Commissioner Stefanics Councilor Trujillo and Commissioner Vigil voting in favor and none voting against.

2. Approval of the Amendment to the FFY 2010-2013 Transportation Improvement Program

Mr. Wilson clarified this runs through September 30th. The DOT notified the MPO of a shift in funding and because of the size of the shift it required a formal public review.

Along with that change and some others where funding matches changed, we were required either 50% or 25% and sometimes the state changes the match percentage. That was for the 62/599 interchange and the rest were administrative cleanups.

Councilor Trujillo moved to approve the 2010-2013 TIP. Commissioner Anaya seconded the motion and it passed by unanimous voice vote.

C. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

1. Presentation of the proposed design for the NM599/County Road62 interchange

Mr. Wilson said the DOT found funding for this so he asked Mr. Gallegos to present an update on the proposed design for this project.

Mr. Gallegos gave a scaled down version of the presentation for the public on this project. He showed a power point presentation that described the project. He explained that with severity of crashes, this was the most critical crash site along 599. It also ranked first in traffic volume. Public input made it very clear this was where they wanted the interchange.

The design would be a diamond with two roundabouts and could be built within the existing ROW. The roundabouts would accommodate large trucks and were built with a truck apron. The overpass would have a 16' 6" clearance and bigger trucks would have to use the roundabouts.

Councilor Bushee asked if there was an equestrian crossing somewhere.

Mr. Gallegos said it was at the underpass nearby.

Councilor Bushee asked about pedestrians here.

Mr. Gallegos said there were 2- 12' lanes and two 5' lanes for bicycles. Bicycles either go around as a car would or they dismount.

Councilor Bushee thought they might use a sharrow.

Mr. Gallegos agreed. There would not be sidewalks because there were not pedestrian facilities on the other side but the design would allow them in the future as the county built out the area. Standard practice was not to build them until it was known what development would take place.

Councilor Bushee saw more activity going on there. It was one more way to get to recreational activities.

Mr. Gallegos said when they put a sidewalk in, one side would be a sidewalk and the other would be a shoulder. That was where the enhancement money came in. It was eligible for federal funding.

Commissioner Anaya said the design looked like Acoma and I-40 and it works well.

Mr. Gallegos agreed it was the same concept.

Commissioner Vigil asked what would happen at South Meadows that now was waiting flashing lights for the at-grade crossing when this interchange was built.

Mr. Gallegos said it would get closed once construction began and vehicles would have to use frontage roads.

He showed the grade diagram. NM-599 would be dropped about 10-12' to accommodate the interchange. That way they could avoid a 6-7% grade on the overpass. The lowering would be about 1,000 feet long. The cost estimate had been set at \$7 million but they might need a new estimate. The sign age would include signs for bicycles and riders could either dismount or ride with traffic on the roundabout.

Mr. Wilson said the feds were coming out with revised standards. Mr. Wilson and Councilor Bushee discussed this issue further. She felt they needed to make sure the design was bicycle friendly.

Councilor Trujillo thought it could be worked out. The bicyclists needed to adhere to the traffic laws too.

Mr. Gallegos said when they opened the ones in Taos they put out a brochure and did community outreach on how to drive in a roundabout. It had a section on bicycles. Taos was really receptive to roundabouts and DOT hadn't gotten any complaints from them.

This project would be bid in October and construction starting in the spring of 2012 and be complete in November 2012. There would be some inconvenience from March to November. The advantage was that it was an accelerated schedule. The 599 study was still on the website.

He explained there was just one public hearing because it already had EA clearance. They might have another just prior to construction.

Commissioner Vigil asked how many attended.

Mr. Gallegos said there were only about 15-20. They had lots more during the corridor studies and didn't know why they didn't get more for this one. They advertised in local papers and put message boards on 599. Anyone driving on 599 should have seen them. They used pretty big ads in the papers.

Commissioner Vigil recommended doing another public hearing right before building it.

Councilor Bushee asked that for the next hearing the organized neighborhoods be provided with notice.

Mr. Gallegos agreed. He said they were also getting input from people who didn't attend the hearing. There were questions on aesthetics. They got comments from a local community group that wanted to enhance the cultural park of that area from prehistoric tribes and Spanish settlers so DOT would consider doing that to the walls of concrete. Bill Hutchinson was looking into it.

Mr. Gallegos said they would look at all of it and bring it here for final approval.

2. Discussion on additional Federal Planning Funding and amendment to the Unified Planning Work Program

Mr. Tibbetts said staff were notified of additional planning funds for 2012. Two years ago they had some and there were limitations on these funds. They hold back about 10% that could be reapportioned. Now they had about \$85,000 coming forward. Staff recommended incorporating it into the UPWP as an amendment for use in the long range rail and public regional transit service. With Rail Runner and NCRTD - they had a meeting yesterday to gather more comments and develop a scope for an RFP to work on a coordinated effort so transit service becomes more attractive. Money could be used for other things but this was what staff thought would be best. The limitations were shown on page 17 of the UPWP in the packet. It would be incorporated back into the MTP approved last fall.

Commissioner Stefanics noted that page 17 talked about the local rail. She had a meeting with people from Lamy and found that an Australian company bought 51% of the Santa Fé Southern and heard also that Amtrak might pull out. The MPO needed to look at that to see if a statement should be made.

Mr. Tibbetts said this would look at local rail. An exhaustive rail study would cost much more than they had. Staff saw this for the rail we have now and with the track we have in place - we would focus on that. We'll come back at next board meeting with draft RFP.

Councilor Bushee asked if some money could be used to hire an expert in the area. Mr. Tibbetts agreed.

E. Communications from Staff

Mr. Tibbetts said they said goodbye to the students and had a final report on the web site.

Mr. Wilson said he was working on new draft of the bikeways map. It would include more county area and over the next six weeks they would finalize it.

Next week was bike to work week and Friday was a big celebration in the Railyard from 4-6.

He was plugging away with the Bike MP and it would be posted soon on the website. They would have a public review in the next couple of months.

F. Communications From NMDOT and FHWA

Sec. Bender announced that click it or ticket would start May 27 and a press conference would occur on May 25 in Albuquerque.

G. Adjournment

The next scheduled meeting of the TPB was set for Thursday, June 9, 2011

The meeting was adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

Approved by:


David Coss, Chair

Submitted by:


Carl Boaz, Stenographer