

MINUTES OF THE
SANTA FE COUNTY
TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

March 9, 2022

Santa Fe, New Mexico

1. a. This meeting of the Santa Fe County Transportation Advisory Committee was called to order at approximately 5:30 p.m. on the above-cited date by Chair John Nitzel.

In accordance with the Public Health Emergency Order issued by the State of New Mexico, and pursuant to the New Mexico Attorney General's Open Government Division Advisory during COVID-19, public entities are authorized to conduct virtual meetings.

b. A quorum was achieved with the following members present:

Members Present:

John Nitzel, Chair, Member-at-large
Joe Archuleta, District 1
Gillis Lang, District 1
Tim O'Malley, District 2
David Martin, District 2
Bill Miller, District 4
Nolan Zisman, District 5

Member(s) Excused:

Christina Chavarria, District 1
Fred Greve, District 4
Dan Painter, District 5
Steve McLaughlin, District 3
[Two Vacancies]

Staff Present:

Gary Brett Clavio, Senior Transportation Planner
Robert Griego, Planning Manager
Ivan Trujillo, Public Works, Engineering Services Manager
Brian Snyder, Roads, Fleet, Solid and Traffic Division Director

Others Present:

Erick Aune, SFMPO

c. **Approval of Agenda**

Mr. Martin moved approval. Mr. Archuleta seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

d. **November 17, 2021 TAC Minutes**

Mr. Nolan moved to approve the November meeting minutes and Mr. Miller seconded. The motion carried unanimously

2. Introductions

Mr. Clavio welcomed David Martin, who will be representing District 2 to the committee. Those present introduced themselves.

3. Presentation: SFMPO Complete Streets Resolution

Eric Aune from the Metropolitan Planning Organization explained that the MPO is an independent, federally funded organization that provides transportation planning services for all entities in regard to federal funding. The resolution being presented is an update of a resolution from 2007 and the MPO, the City and the County will be asked to approve the latest version. At the County the resolution is being sponsored by Commissioners Hansen, Hamilton and Garcia and they have requested review and support by this body.

Mr. Aune shared the text of the resolution and a power point, noting the emphasis is on sustainability and safety, priorities of both the City and the County. The complete streets values are embedded in the federal policy and require a resolution of this nature. It entails no unfunded mandate but rather embodies good practices already in current policy. The goal is to design roadways to facilitate the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. The resolution will be referred to when the Public Works Departments are applying for federal funds.

Mr. Clavio asked if federal legislation or DOT funding was pending specifically for complete streets implementation. Mr. Aune said recent legislation has programs for multi-modal safety that support this.

Chair Nitzel asked about the boundaries of the MPO. Mr. Aune said the MPO is a circle around the urban area and will probably not change much following data from the last census. Chair Nitzel asked if this resolution includes the area of the county outside the MPO. Mr. Aune said the resolution is silent on that and depends on which entities adopt it.

Mr. Griego read the “Now, therefore” portion of the resolution, noting this is a draft and may not be the final language.

Chair Nitzel pointed out that this committee has evolved to incorporate a more multi-modal approach and he asked if equestrians could be included. Mr. Aune observed that equestrians could legitimately be added.

Mr. Zisman suggested making specific reference to areas outside the MPO boundaries.

Chair Nitzel indicated on page 2, the second whereas, asked if the reference to emission reduction goals was to the County as well as the City. Mr. Griego offered to review that for consistency with County policy.

Chair Nitzel questioned the word “convenience” applied to commuters and he suggested “use” or “benefits” instead to make it more global. He also questioned the word “prioritize” in the fifth whereas, and Mr. Zisman said “complete streets” should be capitalized in that paragraph.

Mr. O'Malley stated bike lanes should be completely separated from other traffic lanes. Chair Nitzel added it is critical to consider how the different modes interact. Mr. Clavio noted that SR 14 is going to be redesigned with bike lanes.

Mr. Snyder said if the resolution is approved the committee should look at design standards in each of the County's sustainable development areas, some of which have no provision for bike lanes or sidewalks. Chair Nitzel stated resource issues also have to be considered. Mr. Snyder said perhaps the provisions could be limited to paved streets; expectations should be kept within reason.

Mr. Martin questioned the word "priority" which implies excluding other options.

Mr. Aune indicated he could modify the language of the resolution in line with the comments made.

Chair Nitzel advocated classifying by context, i.e., rural, urban, transitional. Mr. Aune said an appendix with examples could be helpful.

Regarding the presentation accompanying the resolution, Chair Nitzel noted the cover page usually do not have consultants' names.

Mr. Clavio noted developing guidelines for this would put a new burden on the TAC, and he suggested using the Functional Classification Subcommittee.

Mr. Snyder agreed with Mr. Martin in using the phrase "shall strive to..." Mr. Aune said the language endeavors to leverage policy and funding, not imply an unfunded mandate.

4. Action Items

A. Recommend Approval to the BCC of the SFMPO Resolution: "Advancing Complete Streets as a Proven Countermeasure to Advance Safer and More Equitable Transportation Improvements in the Santa Fe Metropolitan Planning Area While Reducing the Impacts of Climate Change"

Mr. Griego stated the resolution could be passed as a recommendation to the BCC, and Mr. Aune reiterated his willingness to make changes to the draft.

There was consensus that it was a good resolution.

A discussion ensued regarding the explicatory power point attached to the resolution. Mr. Griego said that could be attached as an exhibit with additional comments. Chair Nitzel offered the following comments:

- Some parts of it were out of date
- The statement, "Huge arterial roads bisect the city" is a negative comment
- Cerrillos Road was designed with national experts specifically for bicycle facilities
- The Pedestrian Master Plan Review Group had a different conclusion from what is expressed in the attachment. He advocated quoting the Santa Fe master plan directly

Mr. Zisman suggested including only the information in the boxes labeled "Goals" to avoid inconsistencies. Mr. Miller said he felt uncomfortable trying to edit someone else's work. Chair

Nitzel suggested that the MPO could be enjoined to review the comments and address them as they saw fit.

Mr. O'Malley moved to approve recommending the resolution to the BCC with the changes suggested by the committee and with the attached as described above. Mr. Archuleta seconded.

The motion carried by 6-0 roll call vote with Mr. Lang abstaining.

Mr. Clavio stated he can bring the resolution forward to the BCC without the exhibit. He offered to send the committee members the final draft with the changes. Mr. Aune said it has already gone before the City's Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee and it has sponsors among the City Councilors.

5. Information Items:

A. Current Transportation Projects Updates

1. Tesuque Road Safety Study

Mr. Clavio indicated that the Tesuque Road Safety Study will be going out to bid in the near future for consultants to look into the main streets with an eye to safety. He described the territory it will cover. Mr. Aune noted there was a preliminary engineering meeting yesterday about Bishop's Lodge Road, which transitions between city and county.

Chair Nitzel mentioned there is a trail in Tesuque that calls out for parking. Mr. Clavio said that is a known traffic problem. The Open Space and Trails Division is aware of it. It could be added to the scope of work.

Zafarano Drive Extension Study

Ivan Trujillo said the project is to extend Zafarano from Rufina to Agua Fria. A contractor is on board to do a location and feasibility study. There is a delay due to contractual issues. Once that is done there will be a public meeting seeking input. Mr. O'Malley asked who was responsible for the study, and Mr. Trujillo said the County is the sponsor.

Chair Nitzel doubted there was an adequate arterial network in the area, which could lead to more congestion. Mr. Trujillo said the traffic and growth projections over the next 20 are being incorporated into the MPO model. He emphasized there are no plans beyond a study at this point. He anticipated the public meeting would take place in early to mid-summer.

Mr. Martin noted that it would be parallel to Henry Lynch and asked if the study would include Henry Lynch. Mr. Trujillo said this is a macro-analysis, and the next step would be in more detail and will look at different intersection types. Mr. Archuleta spoke about the narrowness of the road.

NE/SE Connector Project

Mr. Trujillo indicated that the construction documents will be completed by mid-April, and then a request for qualifications followed by a request for proposals. The request for qualifications will allow staff to vet the candidates before bidding. The notice to proceed should be issued by early summer.

Mr. Trujillo shared a power point of the project area and layout of the roads with an overview of proposed improvements, and provided a 3-D tour of the connectors showing roundabouts, ditches, drainage crossings, existing and planned developments, waterlines, spur trails, and a trailhead parking lot.

Mr. Griego said this circulation plan was originally proposed in the Community College District Plan.

6. Discussion Items

A. Santa Fe County Transportation Plan 2040; Functional Classification of Roadway Systems Subcommittee – Reschedule Meeting Date and Time

A subcommittee meeting was tentatively planned for March 24th at 4:00, with the possibility of an in-person meeting.

- B. Transportation Finance Review**
- C. Transportation Project Prioritization**

Mr. Clavio referred to the packet material identifying expanded duties for the TAC. Further discussion on these items was deferred to a subsequent meeting.

- 7. Matters from Staff - None were presented**
- 8. Matters of Public Concern -None were presented**
- 9. Matters from the Committee**

Chair Nitzel noted the Zafarano extension was a matter of concern and Mr. Griego said he would keep the committee apprised and any developments or meetings.

- 10. Schedule Next Meeting**
 - TAC: May 18, 2022, 5:30
 - Subcommittee: March 24, 2022, 4:00

11. Adjournment

Upon motion and second the meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Approved by:



John Nitzel, Chair

Respectfully submitted by:

Debbie Doyle, Wordswork

