



FLAGSTAFF METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

CITY OF FLAGSTAFF ♦ COCONINO COUNTY ♦ ARIZONA DOT

Office: 100 West Birch Avenue ♦ Flagstaff, Arizona 86001

Mail: 211 West Aspen Avenue ♦ Flagstaff, Arizona 86001

Phone: (928) 226-4849 ♦ Fax: (928) 213-4825

www.flagstaffmpo.org

Minutes

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING

8:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m., Wednesday, March 26, 2008

Arizona Department of Transportation, 1801 South Milton Road, Flagstaff, AZ 86001

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Montoya called the meeting to order at 8:02 a.m.

II. ROLL CALL

On roll call, the following were present:

Bob Montoya, Chair

Joe Donaldson, Vice-chair

Deb Hill

Scott Overton

Karen Cooper

Matt Ryan (arrived 8:12 am)

Carl Taylor (departed 8:13 am quorum maintained)

Excused Absence:

Karen Cooper

The following FMPO staff was present:

David Wessel, FMPO Manager

Meg Roederer, Administrative Specialist

Others present:

Rick Barrett

John Harper

Jeff Meilbeck

III. PRELIMINARY GENERAL BUSINESS

A. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public participation.

B. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Wessel announced there are a series of workshops scheduled in the state regarding Building a Quality Arizona (BQ AZ) and he is attending the workshop in Flagstaff at Little America scheduled for today following the meeting (March 26, 2008.)

C. APPROVAL of MINUTES.

Vice Mayor Overton made a motion to approve the Minutes of January 23, 2008 and Ms. Hill seconded, which passed unanimously.

IV. OLD BUSINESS

1. FMPO Public Participation Plan

Mr. Wessel described the PPP briefly and stated no input was received from the public on the plan. Ms. Hill referenced comments made by Ms. Archuleta in the January 23, 2008 Minutes regarding New Business Item: FMPO Public Participation Plan and Regional Transportation Plan Update. Ms. Archuleta requested detail on overall vision and cultural opportunities. Mr. Wessel clarified the comment referring to it as an overall approach to public participation and how to address it with the FMPO and RTP. In addition, he mentioned FMPO has reached out to Que Pasa (bi-lingual publication). Ms. Hill then inquired if the PPP draft had been revised to include the recommendations. Mr. Wessel responded that the draft was revised and Ms. Archuleta's recommendations are included in the Public Participation Plan (PPP). Ms. Hill made a motion to adopt the PPP and Vice Mayor Overton seconded, which passed unanimously.

V. NEW BUSINESS

2. ADOT –Flagstaff District and Regional Critical Needs Lists

Chair Montoya introduced the topic and directed the Board to refer to the list and invited comments and discussion. The Board made comments, suggestions and provided recommendations.

Mr. Taylor stated he was pleased to see on the list the US 89A at Bitter Springs to House Rock, which includes shoulders, but it should be explicit to include Buck Skin Mountain. He also added, a roundabout is desired in Fredonia but it is beyond the five year planning period but should be noted. Ms. Hill suggested the project be placed in the 20 to 50 year section. Mr. Harper noted the location as Jct 389 and 89A in Fredonia. Mr. Taylor mentioned there is an issue of increased heavy vehicle use in the area and trucks that are routed do not understand the topography and looking strictly at the shorter mileage. Mr. Taylor inquired if ADOT has authority to prohibit heavy trucks because it is dangerous and not an appropriate road for freight trucks. Mr. Harper addressed the question stating ADOT does not discourage truck usage and it is a long process and the legislature would be involved, but it is doable. Mr. Taylor suggested a sign such as *truck traffic turn left or local traffic only*.

Chair Montoya commented on praises and positive feedback that was received on a new roundabout from the citizens in the Village of Oak Creek (ie: smoother traffic, no back ups, cross walk easier). He also stated outsiders do not know how to use it and tend to stop.

Mayor Donaldson inquired about the TOC – Transportation Operations Center. Mr. Barrett noted it is on page 18 fifth row down and Mr. Wessel mentioned it is again on page 13 fourth from bottom. Mayor Donaldson cited an example from Fort Worth, Texas that traffic signalization does not work because it takes 15 minutes for computers to adjust and then another train comes along, use of remote sensing or manually changes are necessary. He inquired if the RTP and Land Use was considered while compiling the critical needs list. Mr. Wessel replied that yes it had and in addition, Mr. Wessel explained the critical needs instructions from ADOT was vague, so this was an "RTP plus." This list will be bundled, such as interstate or arterial

projects, and presented as programs to the legislature in order to illustrate the size of the challenge and get legislature moving on a funding package.

Mayor Donaldson expressed a concern about the RTP and Land Use in regard to water usage and stated that a road is a vehicle to economic growth. Additionally, he commented on the public process and their involvement and we need to avoid a "road to nowhere" situation. Mr. Wessel inquired if it is the recommendation to remove projects that did not receive public input opportunity. Mayor Donaldson stated it was too late and the Governor requests the list now. Mr. Wessel replied that it is not too late and can meet to remove projects from the list that need public consideration. Mr. Wessel mentioned he met with Virginia Turner and Shannon Scatari from the Governor's Office and they are willing to discuss the list and it is worth a try. Mayor Donaldson stressed that water is critical in the state of Arizona as well as the public process. He added that the City Council is also very interested in the public input and how plans are formed.

Ms. Hill also met with Turner and Scatari and stated that representation from our region is recommended and necessary on the TIME Coalition and our "voice" is needed at the table because the Governor works closely with the group. Ms. Hill continued to state that as of today, the county board has not seen the list and will have comment, but understands the Governor needs the list immediately. In addition, it was not on the county agenda posting. Ms. Hill stated the Governor is looking at a 2008 election and this group has already sent a letter expressing that it is not feasible for 2008, but regardless, it will be 2008 or 2009. Ms. Hill shares the same concern as Mayor Donaldson regarding the public process. Mr. Wessel mentioned as an organization we have received more input than other COGs and MPOs. Ms. Hill appreciated the NACOG and county input but stressed however, it was a TAC level (engineering – can do) not political level (public input – should do or want to do).

Vice Mayor Overton commented that the projects are on the "radar" and while it has not received the public examination, he has seen it in the construction stimulus package the Governor presented in the last couple of weeks with the University system. Is the Governor or legislature looking at a stimulus package for transportation? Ms. Hill responded, no. Vice Mayor Overton continued to comment that there are parallels in perception and it is wise to list projected need with 11 in the queue and the rest that are conceptual.

Ms. Hill stated her comments regarding the critical needs list.

- 20-50 years Phoenix to Flagstaff (3 lanes) unacceptably long and should be sooner. Mr. Harper clarified citing a study and Mr. Wessel also mentioned it is on page 14, fourth down, I-17 from SR 179 to Jct. I-40 but will remove it from 20-50 year section. Ms. Hill agreed.
- Red Lake Segment: Ms. Hill requested verification that it is the Navajo Nation community north of Tuba City known as Tonalea on US 160 and Mr. Harper confirmed. Ms. Hill stated there are safety concerns from members of the community and to include safety improvements for pedestrians. Mr. Wessel will add \$1 million to price.
- US Highway 89 Bypass (stated on page 12 and 15): Is it concept or confirmed? Mr. Harper stated it is a concept and what happens is to be determined. Mr. Wessel based the cost estimate roughly around the Townsend-Winona project. Mr. Wessel added that if it is politically premature we can try to remove it. Mr. Harper stated it is to go through the RTP Process. Ms. Hill recommends removing the cost and alignment if it is not a particular alignment because it is a concept. Mr. Wessel mentioned a range of costs will be listed since there is

not a particular alignment yet. Ms. Hill also stated it be made clear that it is a concept on the critical needs list.

- Highway 64 Grand Canyon to Cameron: under the access management category she commented the need to receive plenty of input from local Navajo business people in order to keep their access open.

Mayor Donaldson stressed the public process with I-17 to Villagio, Linda Vista connection to old 66 and 4th St. to I-40. Mr. Ryan affirmed the need to educate and inform the public. Mr. Ryan suggested Camp Navajo be a separate item from the Bellemont TI / I-40. Mr. Ryan inquired if pavement preservation is on the list. It is on page 17 and Chair Montoya stressed the need for pavement preservation stating the statewide figure at \$300 million. The Board suggested adding a dollar figure to the column for our region. Mr. Harper to research and provide for our region's pavement preservation percentage based off the \$300 million dollar figure. Ms. Hill requests the consultant be made aware of the Board's voice to move pavement preservation up the list. Chair Montoya recommends a footnote be added regarding the \$300 million for pavement preservation.

Mr. Ryan inquired about Air and Transit not on the list as well as the other modes of travel. Mr. Wessel mentioned a statewide assessment is being done but the lists will all be rolled in together eventually. Mr. Wessel also stated that FUTS is on the list.

Mr. Wessel stated this is not a plan but a problematic list. Chair Montoya stated this list is a fast track but projects are not "cast in stone" and the cost allocations are noted. He also mentioned the state of the economy, as well as, agrees with the need for public process. Mayor Donaldson mentioned a statewide impact fee as an idea to fund projects and Ms. Hill stated the conversation is on going from toll roads to impact fees. Mr. Ryan stated the importance of a TIME Coalition voice with transportation knowledge arguing 2009 and 2011 are complicated with the Constituional pieces and legislature.

Ms. Hill made a motion for the critical needs list concept plan to be endorsed as amended for input to the Statewide Transportation Planning Framework Study with the inclusion of a cover letter signed by the Chair within 24 hours stating the critical issues and priorities. Mayor Donaldson seconded, which carried.

3. Transit Ballot Question Information Campaign

Mr. Meilbeck, NAIPTA General Manager, provided the group a brochure, *Five Propositions Let You Decide Mountain Line's Future*, and identified the issues. The Board discussed the ballot and campaign. Mr. Meilbeck explained the propositions, highlights such as ridership and the hybrid buses. The vote is in May and it is a mail in only ballot. Chair Montoya, inquired about the ratio of sales tax? Mr. Meilbeck stated ½ of the sales tax money comes from visitors. Ms. Hill requested general support and consideration of the items and commended Mr. Meilbeck and NAIPTA staff for the program's success and for exceeding national bus ridership statistics.

4. ADOT Access Management Map and Classification Review

Mr. Wessel presented the draft ADOT maps for the area and explained the markings of the color coded legend. The Board expressed challenges on the color coding for some individuals. Mr. Wessel expressed similar difficulties and addressed the Board's comments as well as clarified areas on the map. There was discussion on access points, lot splits and higher classifications desired on some areas. Vice Mayor Overton made a motion to endorse the ADOT classifications as amended and Ms. Hill seconded, which passed unanimously.

5. Human Services Transportation Coordination Plan

Mr. Wessel explained the program to the Board and received feedback and input. Mr. Ryan made a motion to adopt the plan and Vice Mayor Overton seconded, which carried unanimously.

6. FY 2008-2012 Transportation Improvement Program Amendment

Mr. Wessel addressed the Chair regarding an enhancement grant to include the addition of the S. Beaver and S. San Francisco Street project Vice Mayor Overton made a motion to amend the FY 2008-2012 T.I. P. and Ms. Hill seconded, which carried unanimously.

7. FMPO Calendar

Mr. Wessel commented on calendar dates. There was discussion only and no action.

VI. CONCLUDING GENERAL BUSINESS

B. REPORTS

- 1) Technical Advisory Committee:
Provided and no discussion on the action summary from February 7, 2008.
- 2) Management Committee Report:
Provided and no discussion on the draft minutes from February 14, 2008.
- 3) Staff Reports:
Provided and no discussion on the staff reports.

C. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no additional announcements.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Montoya adjourned the meeting at 9:46 a.m.

CERTIFICATION OF POSTING OF NOTICE

The undersigned hereby certifies that a copy of the foregoing notice was duly posted at Flagstaff City Hall on _____, at _____ a.m./p.m. in accordance with the statement filed by the Recording Secretary with the City Clerk.

Dated this _____ day of _____, 2008.