



FLAGSTAFF METROPOLITAN  
PLANNING ORGANIZATION  
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***Draft Minutes***  
**Executive Board**  
**8:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. –Wednesday, June 24, 2009**

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Flagstaff City Hall, 2nd Floor Staff Conference Room,  
211 W. Aspen Avenue, Flagstaff, AZ 86001

Chair Overton called the meeting to order at 8:06 a.m.

On roll call, the following Executive Board members were present:

Scott Overton, Chair  
Matt Ryan, Vice-chair  
Mayor Sara Presler  
Bob Montoya

Excused Absence

Carl Taylor  
Coral Evans

Others Present

Kevin Burke

The following FMPO staff was present:

David Wessel, FMPO Manager  
Meg Roederer, Administrative Specialist

**I. PRELIMINARY GENERAL BUSINESS**

**A. PUBLIC COMMENT**

There was no public comment.

**B. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

There were no announcements.

**C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Matt Ryan made a motion to approve the May 19, 2009 Executive Board meeting minutes and Mr. Overton seconded, which passed unanimously.

**II. OLD BUSINESS (Continued, postponed, and tabled items.)**

**1. Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) Update**

Mr. Wessel stated the RTP is moving on pace. The TAC has scheduled a July 22, 2009 four hour retreat to discuss the RTP from 1p-5p with an extended invitation to City and County staff. The meeting will solidify the policies of the plan, as well as, a discussion on the universe of projects across all modes. The TAC will prioritize and

eliminate some projects in order to have a draft for the August TAC and Executive Board meetings. He stated, next he will look at funding scenarios such as a scenario that will concentrate heavily on new roads, another scenario heavy on alternate modes a third scenario on current maintenance and lastly a balanced scenario. The scenarios will be evaluated against the criteria set up through the process. Mr. Wessel stated the plan is scheduled for adoption in September. Mr. Wessel added he has been coordinating with the Regional Plan 2012 effort, participated in an Open House at the end of May and a focus group. He mentioned the map of projects has been in the public eye and he has been receiving comments. Mr. Wessel summarized there has been support for the compact Belmont development activity center model. He stated the difference, relative to roadways, based on focus group comments was can roads be limited on the periphery and in exchange the group will accept more congestion and wider roads. Mr. Wessel mentioned it was a "trade off" in order to save open space. Mr. Wessel said, in earlier surveys the concept of wider roads was not broadly supported. Mr. Wessel stated this group was skewed towards the southern end of Ponderosa Trails and particularly interested in traffic interchange supporting Villagio Montana and the road that extends east to connect up to JWP. Mayor Presler mentioned that the neighborhood group has been active and organizing around this issue. Mayor Presler stated the neighborhood group that Mr. Wessel referenced is finding and identifying issues in town to connect too and stressed we consider the input but not weigh it heavily in comparison to other neighborhood groups and organizations just because they were present. Mayor Presler mentioned this group does not care for the zoning issue on the edge of the airport and interchange issues around a commercial development that comes on the back of residential. Mayor Presler stated there is a conflict with some neighbors regarding it would be open forest land and others in the neighborhood that received information the area would be developed. Mayor Presler mentioned there is a split among the neighbors and cautioned that a community plan not be created based on one neighborhood. Mayor Presler stressed she regularly receives comments that people do not want congestion and want a North/South corridor. Chair Overton mentioned he has received parallel comments from citizens. Mr. Wessel stated the group was civil and did not engage in unrelated issues. Mr. Wessel added that Mr. Menard was present and offered technical information, as well as, shared the pros and cons. Mayor Presler stated the City Council had a bonding open house and one issue was regarding the Lonetree area and no public comments were received indicating that a North/South corridor would be unwanted. Mayor Presler mentioned there was a comment from the Baca family indicating stronger attention to their home that has been there for 60 years. Mayor Presler mentioned there were was a large turnout of citizens. Chair Overton mentioned it may be premature to assume. Mr. Ryan stated Bennet Estates and Bow and Arrow neighborhoods may have open space concerns as well as increased traffic congestion concerns.

Mr. Wessel reviewed RTP modeling results with the Board. He explained the existing conditions. Chair Overton inquired about the Fourth Street rating. Mr. Wessel showed it as currently uncongested in the Green "C" Category. Mr. Wessel explained the congestion on the 2030 map and the 2050 map. Mr. Wessel summarized the 2030 and 2050 look very similar with the exception of the widened interstate on the 2050 model. Chair Overton reiterated that comments received may be skewed because of specialty groups. Chair Overton stated he has concerns with the focus on activity centers and finds Flagstaff is yet to be proven such as Sawmill and Westcor Phase II at the mall. Chair Overton mentioned realistically there will be centers but stated for a comment to come forward that accepts more congestion and to just focus on infill is "unacceptable." Chair Overton stated it is not a logical option and we can have alternative modes but at the same time has seen limited results. Chair Overton

commented he is not getting a sense that FUTS has become an alternative mode of transportation that is relied on every day with mass use of the FUTS in regard that is the most reliable form of transportation. Mr. Wessel addressed the comments shared by Chair Overton. Mr. Wessel referred to mode share and the Trip Diary Survey and that goals have been met in terms of ped, bike and transit share. Chair Overton is stating we are seeing results with FUTS but mentioned we are putting all the efforts there and he does not want to see roadways congested. He stated it is not realistic to think everything will be built by 2050. Mayor Presler concurred with the Chair and requested the Policy position. Mayor Presler stated the concern with City of Flagstaff revenue generation and the possibility of a Highway 180 Bypass. Mr. Wessel stated he is not seeking policy feedback but establishing policy discussion. Mr. Wessel referred to the table in the agenda packet for policy direction and is in process of developing mid level policy statements. Mayor Presler spoke with Jim Cronk regarding regional planning and would like to see regional planning in a micro simulation (TV form) instead of foam board as a more effective communication tool. Mr. Burke commented that it is a land use discussion as much as transportation use. Mr. Wessel mentioned the retreat date and will provide routine updates on the Regional Plan 2012 during regular Executive Board meetings. Mayor Presler inquired about light rail conversations on Route 66. Mr. Wessel stated conversations have occurred with the consultant regarding thresholds to make the services viable. Mr. Wessel stated for light rail it was 20-25 million square feet of non-residential in the employment centers. Flagstaff is currently at 17 million and we will be lucky to reach that in 2050. Mr. Wessel will send a draft table regarding viability of light rail and employment centers. Mr. Wessel commented on Bus Rapid Transit. Mr. Burke commented on traffic and neighborhood patterns.

### **III. NEW BUSINESS**

#### **2 FY 2010-2014 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)**

Mr. Wessel explains the tables focusing on the changes recommended by the TAC and focused on timeline and costs.

- Survey and Bond Discussion

*Per the recommendation of the Board Mr. Wessel will follow up with Kevin Burke and Kim Ott regarding the type of survey for Bond opportunity.*

- Lone Tree T-I Discussion

Chair Overton made a motion to adopt the FY 2010-2014 TIP as recommended by the Technical Advisory Committee per discussion and Mr. Montoya seconded, which passed unanimously.

#### **3. bqAZ Statewide Planning Framework Update**

Mr. Wessel updated the Board on the recent activities on the state regarding the bqAZ project. Chair Overton inquired about the Governor's involvement on bqAZ. Mr. Montoya and Mr. Ryan commented per a bqAZ meeting showing that Highway 89 and Highway 180 was taken out. Mr. Wessel will check into it with Ms. Toth and Mr. McNamera on the bypass situation.

#### **4. A.R.R.A. Funding – TIGER Application**

Mr. Wessel stated Mr. Holmes recommended submitting application on the \$1.5 Billion in competitive federal grants is available for application in mid-September. Staff believes that the Camp Navajo Intermodal Yard is the best regional candidate. Mayor Presler advocated for the Lonetree Corridor for application. Chair Overton stated it may be a stretch and to stay with the letter of the application. Mr. Montoya commented on pavement preservation on Highway 180 and Route 66. The Board directed staff to prepare the application for Highway 180 project in concert with appropriate partners. Chair Overton stressed Highway 180 was a long shot but just as much as Lonetree and

Belmont is not ready.

**5. FMPO Calendar**

There will be no July 2009 meeting.

**6. Rotation of Officers**

The Board agreed on the rotation of officers based on the FMPO Operating Procedures effective July 2009 with the County as Chair position and ADOT as Vice-Chair.

**IV. CONCLUDING GENERAL BUSINESS**

**D. REPORTS**

Provided and no discussion.

**E. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Mayor Presler announced the Greater Arizona Mayor (GAM) and will focus on water and transportation. Mayor Presler announced her meeting with John McGee was canceled and has not yet been rescheduled.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Overton adjourned the meeting at 10:07 a.m.