



FLAGSTAFF METROPOLITAN
PLANNING ORGANIZATION
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Approved Minutes Executive Board 8:00 a.m. – 10:00 a.m. – Wednesday, March 25, 2009

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

Chair Overton called the meeting to order at 8:10 a.m.

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

Scott Overton, Chair
Matt Ryan, Vice-chair
Bob Montoya (telephonically)
Mandy Metzger, designated alternate for Carl Taylor

Excused Absence
Mayor Sara Presler
Carl Taylor
Coral Evans

The following FMPO staff was present:
David Wessel, FMPO Manager
Meg Roederer, Administrative Specialist

Others present:
Dexter Albert, Intrinsic

I. PRELIMINARY GENERAL BUSINESS

A. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

B. ANNOUNCEMENTS

The agenda was adjusted to include New Business: Item 3 and 4 in the discussion with Old Business: Item 1 Federal Highway Bill Authorization and Stimulus Package.

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Matt Ryan made a motion to approve the January 28, 2009 and February 25, 2009 Executive Board meeting minutes and Chair Overton seconded, which passed unanimously.

II. OLD BUSINESS

1. **Federal Highway Bill Authorization and Stimulus Package**

Mr. Wessel debriefed the Executive Board on recent Arizona State Transportation Board decisions. He stated the stimulus numbers were less than expected. He passed out a letter from Michelle Conkle from ADOT showing the breakdown distribution of the \$156 million to MAG/PAG/Greater Arizona (COG/MPO) with the FMPO at \$961,000. Mr. Wessel explained he discovered rather late that the ADOT Director (John Halikowski) had discretionary authority over the distribution of the funds and elected to follow a historical distribution pattern from 2008 resulting in \$960,000 to the FMPO. Mr. Montoya stated the Director and his office had two scenarios, one with \$80 million to MAG, and then reallocating the remainder of the Stimulus Funds. The Arizona State Transportation Board did not agree and wanted to use the RAAC formula or Casa Grande Accords. The Board requested STP funds follow the federal formula but if there were any funds over and above that, for the Board to have discretion on how to reallocate the funds. Mr. Montoya stated the Board's intent was to use the \$40 million out of the \$156 million that was not under the federal formula and allocate it along the Casa Grande Accords with 50% going to rurals and the remainder to PAG/MAG. The Director had the Attorney General Office research it and the funds are distributed per the Director's discretion and he followed the historical allocation. Mr. Wessel stated his earlier estimates of \$2-3 million were based on the Board's recommendation. Mr. Montoya stated the estimates were "right on" if the funds were to have followed Board allocation.

Mr. Wessel continued with the discussion. He recommended dedicating the entire \$960,000 toward the County W. Route 66 project, which is from City limits to the first intersection of the I-40 ramps. The reason for the entire amount is because smaller amounts would be ineffective, results in administrative difficulties and agency match complications with potential IGAs. The County is already bringing local match to the project and this amount will reduce their burden. Mr. Wessel spoke to Stu Seubert and Jim Cronk with the City of Flagstaff and they support the recommendation without opposition or concern.

Mr. Wessel stated there are recording requirements with the Stimulus money and it is the State's responsibility to track it but the State may look to the County for information. It may involve a simple spreadsheet.

FMPO 2009-2013 Transportation Improvement Program Amendment

Mr. Wessel explained the TIP changes and explained a list of projects that will use ARRA funds. The Transportation Enhancement Review Committee is working through their final recommendations and Mr. Wessel will make an administrative change identifying the change in funding source. The breakdown of transit projects were provided.

FMPO

Hybrid Electric Bus (replacement fleet)	\$ 525,000
Mall Multimodal Transfer Center	\$ 275,000
Bus Shelters and Station Stops	<u>\$ 189,946</u>
	\$ 989,946

CYMPO

Design and Engineering of BRT Route	\$ 400,000
Para-Transit Van (replacement fleet)	\$ 65,000
Vehicle Rehab and Maintenance	\$ 300,800
Alternative Energy Options at new Facility	\$ 208,944
Bus Shelters and Station Stops	<u>\$ 57,243</u>
	\$ 1,031,987

Matt Ryan made a motion to recommend adjustments and approve the TIP amendment that will apply \$960,000 in local highway stimulus funds to the County W. Route 66 project, as well as, accept the list of transit projects and Mr. Montoya seconded, which passed unanimously.

Board Member Washington, D.C. trip Reports

Board members reported on their respective trips to Washington, D.C. Mr. Ryan mentioned that transportation was formula based by nature, mentioned science and energy coordination with transportation, reauthorization, trust fund, study committees at House and State level with VMT conversations, and www.recovery.gov with each agency having their own link. Ms. Metzger added that it is always a good idea to incorporate the language of the administrations goals such as the environmental and science aspects and weave that into correspondence/discussions. Ms. Metzger stated she worked on Capital Hill for an energy committee on natural resources. Chair Overton stated transportation was ready to distribute monies and stressed the demand for documentation and accountability to show proof in spending and creation of jobs. He explained the need to continue to show our resilience and resolve that these items are coming to fruition with their help. This will help in the next budget cycle and if there were to be a second stimulus they may look at successful communities that carried out the first stimulus act.

2. Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) Update

Mr. Wessel updated the Executive Board on recent progress and discussed the scores received from the Board and stakeholders. He stated the focus will be the transportation model because it will support the regional plan effort. Mr. Wessel mentioned public participation will be minimized and he will coordinate with the general plan process, such as an open house and focus group in mid-May to present his recommendations as an analytical tool for consideration by the public. He received results from most Executive Board members and compared it to stakeholder results that were largely agency personnel. The greatest difference was between economical development and environment. The Board ranked economical development higher and stakeholders ranked environment higher. Mr. Wessel recommended using the average. The Board agreed with Mr. Wessel to use the average score between the Board and stakeholders on evaluation criteria.

III. NEW BUSINESS

1. FMPO Calendar

There was no discussion.

2. FMPO Information Brochure

Mr. Wessel stated the brochure was created in response to retreat driven recommendations. Mr. Wessel mentioned the MPO received a brief mention in the [Arizona Daily Sun](#) on the front page of the Sunday paper (3-22-09) in response to the stimulus project and believes we are reaching the communication goal. Ms. Roederer added that the communication aspect is to relay the FMPO message out to the public of who we are and what we do at the FMPO. She explained the following:

- Draft brochure sample piece
- E-Newsletter [FMPO Connection](#) release in April
- Press Release on the Stimulus brought Cindy Cole, local reporter for the [Arizona Daily Sun](#), to the MPO office and generated the FMPO mention in the Stimulus article from 3-22-09, as well as, created a good relationship. Ms. Cole requested to receive the FMPO e-newsletter and be placed on our mailing list and we are now on the [Arizona Daily Sun](#) "radar."

Ms. Roederer stressed that it is a draft brochure and requested feedback from the Board on the overall concept. Chair Overton stated it is good document which has technical information and liked the input page such as the transportation questions. He stated the middle panel of the brochure with the Board and TAC information may need to be eliminated because it is very detailed for a public piece and suggested project examples but does not want to date the piece either and perhaps develop a highlight page. Chair Overton continued to brainstorm and stated it was a little wordy and reworking the center panel may be a solution. Ms. Metzger stated she liked the information in the center panel on how the Board/TAC operate because it is new to her and felt the public may find it useful but could be reduced. Chair Overton mentioned the back panel information. Ms. Roederer stated a simplification of the information. Mr. Wessel added that it be limited such as keeping the Board information but replacing the TAC information with projects. Mr. Ryan stated the use of one sentence for TAC and use more images. Mr. Ryan stated example text "work with city, county and federal highways on transportation planning with tax based initiatives to resolve congestion for example the fourth street overpass." Ms. Roederer stated the piece has multiple functions and is for the Board, the public, Mr. Wessel at events such as CityFest, and placed at agency locations for the public to pick up. Ms. Metzger liked the tax payer example and to show results. Chair Overton cautioned dating it and having thousands of left over quantities that are unusable. Ms. Roederer suggested start with a print of 1000 or 500 to stay within budget and avoid having brochures that are dated and unusable. She mentioned it will be available on-line as a download, which can be easily revised as needed. Mr. Ryan suggested enlarging the word Transportation on the cover. Staff will re-work and present a new revised draft to the Board next meeting. Ms. Roederer stated three quotes for 500 printed brochures: City of Flagstaff at \$1.00 each for a total of \$500; Kinkos was comparable at \$1.00 each or \$500 total; and Mirror images the lowest at approximately \$300 for 500 brochures.

IV. CONCLUDING GENERAL BUSINESS

D. REPORTS

Provided and no discussion.

E. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Overton announced the next meeting dates and ADOT Dinner and Board Hearing dates.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Overton adjourned the meeting at 9:01 a.m.