



FLAGSTAFF METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

CITY OF FLAGSTAFF ♦ COCONINO COUNTY ♦ ARIZONA DOT

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Approved Minutes *Special Executive Board* 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. –Wednesday, November 18, 2009

Coconino County 2nd Floor Conference Room,
219 E. Cherry Avenue, Flagstaff, AZ 86001

Chair Ryan called the meeting to order at 9:25 a.m.

Roll Call.

Present: Matt Ryan, Supervisor Coconino County; Carl Taylor, Supervisor Coconino County; Robert (Bob) Montoya, Arizona Department of Transportation; Mandy Metzger (Designated Alternate) Supervisor Coconino County; Sara Presler, Mayor City of Flagstaff

Absent/Excused: Scott Overton, Councilmember City of Flagstaff; Coral Evans, Councilmember City of Flagstaff.

Others Present: David Wessel, FMPO Manager; Meg Roederer, FMPO Administrative Specialist; Dexter Albert, Intrinsic; Jason Hurd, Intrinsic

I. PRELIMINARY GENERAL BUSINESS

A. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Albert (1400 N. Lomalie Lane, Flagstaff, AZ 86001) announced an invitation to the Board to attend Fourth Street Corridor public meetings scheduled for December 15 and 16, 2009. The December 15, 2009 meetings are internal with departments and staff and the 16th will be with social service organizations. The public meeting open house is from 6-8 pm on Wednesday, December 16, 2009 at Killip Elementary School. Mr. Albert will forward information to the TAC regarding the event and the FMPO will assist in distributing the material electronically. He stated the final recommendations will be presented to the City of Flagstaff City Council in February 2010.

B. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Ryan adjusted the agenda to discuss New Business Items 2 and 3 before Old Business.

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Montoya made a motion to approve the September 23, 2009 Executive Board meeting minutes and Mayor Presler seconded, which passed unanimously.

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

1. Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) Update

Mr. Wessel reviewed fiscal constraint and public comment received to date and received Board input. Mayor Presler suggested in regard to public comment to accept as public comment and use it to formulate a final decision but does not believe it to be reasonable to answer every response and suggested an invite to public meetings and

that comments will be part of the record. The Board agreed. Mr. Wessel stated public input and response will be addressed in the RTP appendix. Mr. Wessel will double check the public comment plan requirements and stated there are about 30 comments thus far.

Mr. Wessel explained the fiscal constraint tables in the agenda packet starting on page ten. Mayor Presler inquired if HURF funding is a reliable source. Mr. Wessel responded there is a 2% assumption and it may be aggressive and will double check. Mayor Presler stated the information she received is the city tax projection as flat with a small incline and that the state pie has shrunk, which will result in a decline for the City. Mayor Presler cautioned not to be too generous. Mr. Wessel mentioned the Board keep in mind that the RTP has "moving parts." Mr. Wessel stated an option may be to anticipate changes and produce draft A and draft B because there are production and logistical costs associated with changes such as cost and/or projects. Mr. Wessel explained the concept of placing fiscal constraints in five year buckets (ie: 2010-2015.) The Board concurred with Mr. Wessel's recommendation of five year buckets. Additionally, the Board suggested TAC develop recommendations and then bring the Plan back to the Board.

III. NEW BUSINESS

2. bqAZ Statewide Planning Framework Update

Mr. Wessel updated the Board on the status of bqAZ and discussed the high speed rail scenario with I-40 and MPO area. He stated the final scenario is supportive of the things we envision in this area with the exception of the high speed rail option. He explained one line is Tucson to Las Vegas and then Las Vegas to other destinations such as Vegas to southern California then on to the LA metro area. The second line is Phoenix to Albuquerque to Denver and it would run diagonal through Show Low. Mr. Wessel and NACOG stated there are train issues and suggested realignment or to use an alternative such as an I-40 type system that connects Phoenix to Albuquerque. Mr. Wessel stated another possible issue based on the development of our RTP and conversations is their bqAZ Plan shows a 180 and 89 Bypass and our RTP shows the 180 Bypass as a large study area to evaluate and avoid peak congestion and 89 as conditional to address congestion and mobility issues.

Mr. Wessel stated our RTP plan is scheduled for adoption in December and the bqAZ effort is early next year. Mr. Montoya stated December. Mr. Wessel will look at coordination. Mr. Wessel stated their bqAZ is visionary and is not sure how critical it is that the actions coincide. Mr. Wessel is unsure where the 180 and 89 Bypass will ultimately stand in our RTP. Supervisor Taylor inquired if bqAZ adoption will come to the FMPO and how it impacts our RTP or if it imposes an overlay to our plan. Mr. Wessel restated their plan is visionary that will guide their long range transportation plan and it is the policy document that guides investments that the federal government will sign off on. Chair Ryan commented that it needs to be in the plan to be considered and the bqAZ high speed rail piece is broad coverage. Chair Ryan pointed out if on the I-40 corridor it could potentially place it in the FMPO area. Supervisor Taylor expressed that I-40 could be simpler in terms of easement and a land acquisition viewpoint. Supervisor Taylor stated there is a risk of being "beached" and should strongly object and wants to see a detailed analysis of land acquisition and practicality. Mayor Presler stated she was contacted by BNSF and suggested inviting BNSF to FMPO meetings to discuss existing lines. Supervisor Taylor commented on political redistricting and expressed concerns of high speed rail through pristine areas in the White Mountains because Show Low requests it. Supervisor Taylor stressed the importance of an economic analysis and to not acquiesce, as well as, that the state plan should not preempt the local plan. Mr. Wessel stated a strong letter is recommended. Mayor Presler stressed the value of our

regional planning efforts with a relationship between existing planning and their visioning. Supervisor Metzger suggested the letter be delivered in person. Chair Ryan stated we should provide appropriate input that reflects our plan. Mr. Montoya stated we should voice our concerns in the letter of support but it is a master plan and there are no designated routes and that it is futuristic.

Supervisor Taylor made a motion to send a letter in general support of the bqAZ recommendations with the following stipulations:

- Do not agree to an eastern route for high speed rail without there being further study in terms of economic, community impact and practicality
- Highway 180 and Highway 89 bypasses around Flagstaff included subject to further study and serious community input

Chair Ryan seconded; however, after further discussion the vote and motion was amended to state in the letter that I-40 as the primary candidate for a High Speed Rail System. Mayor Presler seconded, which carried unanimously.

3. Letter to Federal Delegation stating concern on authorization delays

Mr. Wessel explained the draft letter to Arizona's federal delegation stating concerns for economic recovery and mobility resulting from poor cash flow. The Board made recommendations on formatting, contacts to copy, local impact, and to have a proactive approach. Supervisor Taylor made a motion to support a continuing resolution letter and authorize the Chair to sign. Mayor Presler seconded, which passed unanimously.

4. FMPO Calendar

Chair Ryan suggested a new agenda item for next meeting to discuss ASTB Board rotation due to Mr. Montoya's term expiration, which will cause a vacancy on the FMPO Executive Board. Mr. Montoya may need to attend the Special Executive Board December 16, 2009 meeting telephonically.

IV. CONCLUDING GENERAL BUSINESS

D. REPORTS

Provided and no discussion.

E. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Ryan adjourned the meeting at 10:45 a.m.