



**FLAGSTAFF METROPOLITAN
PLANNING ORGANIZATION**
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Approved Minutes Executive Board 8:00 a.m. – 10:00 – Wednesday, January 27, 2010

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

Chair Ryan called the meeting to order at 8:04 a.m.

Roll Call.

Present: Matt Ryan, Supervisor Coconino County; Robert (Bob) Montoya, Arizona Department of Transportation; Scott Overton, Councilmember City of Flagstaff; Coral Evans, Councilmember City of Flagstaff; Carl Taylor, Supervisor Coconino County

Absent/Excused: Sara Presler, Mayor City of Flagstaff;

Others Present: David Wessel, FMPO Manager; Meg Roederer, FMPO Administrative Specialist; Kevin Adam, RTAC

I. PRELIMINARY GENERAL BUSINESS

A. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

B. ANNOUNCEMENTS

None

C. APPROVAL of MINUTES.

Mr. Overton made a motion to approve the December 16, 2009 Special Executive Board meeting minutes and Mr. Montoya seconded, which passed unanimously.

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

1. FY 2010 Unified Planning Work Program

Mr. Wessel referred to the staff report and requested guidance on the Work Program from the Board. Mr. Wessel stated he is looking for guidance on the draft budget based on staff speculation and requested guidance as it is formulated. He stated the bad news of the federal situation is that we are down \$12,000 and the good news is there is more carry forward than anticipated. Mr. Wessel stated that TAC is proposing under administration tasks to lower travel and increase training to support our member agencies with transportation training. Mr. Wessel explained the changes such as travel decrease, training increase and the Milton Road Corridor Study. Mr. Wessel stated the TAC recommended the Milton project should begin to move forward and to implement it to avoid the possibility of a loss of funding. Vice Chair Montoya suggested the Lone Tree Corridor with an overpass as a project instead of the Milton Road Corridor Study. Mr. Overton stated the concern that there may be an \$800,000 study

with a \$60 million solution for Milton, which will not be able to be funded. Mr. Montoya concurred with Mr. Overton. Mr. Taylor suggested an alternative of a special district idea and to build incremental funding and think in terms of enhancements and targeted areas with long term funding. Ms. Evans commented on the fourth street corridor study that business owners need a price tag and disagrees with studies. Mr. Overton inquired if Milton is deferred what the other likely construction projects are. Mr. Wessel stated safety areas would be high on the list. Mr. Overton preferred construction activity instead of study activity. Chair Ryan commented on safety projects and enhancements on the corridor and to focus on the incremental instead of a large study, which results in a price that is not affordable. Mr. Taylor commented that if a "study sits on shelf" it does not keep the public engaged as well as it may be a policy if a study is done there should be small things done such as signage in order to keep people engaged. Mr. Wessel summarized that the Board comments on the Work Program to put funds toward projects and he will work with City of Flagstaff Capital and ADOT such as Milton, Beulah and University sections.

Ms. Evans stressed balance between vehicle and pedestrian projects for safety along Milton especially near the Overpass. Mr. Wessel commented on the safety issues near the stairs on Milton by the "I DO-I DO" business and that there is a proposal to place an ADA sidewalk. The Board recommended reworking the funding. Mr. Wessel will follow-up with ADOT funding requirements and deadlines.

Mr. Wessel discussed the Camp Navajo topic with the Board as well as the I-40 DCR and widening of I-40. He stated a viable developer was acquired by Camp Navajo, *Bostonia*, which is an equity firm that can invest immediately. Mr. Wessel mentioned the Freight Study was completed a few years ago with recommendations:

- 1) Assist with a Freight Advisory Board
- 2) Initiate a Shippers Association (non-profit group) that can collectively negotiate
- 3) Port Authority similar to the MPO and may influence type of development and utilization of an intermodal yard

Mr. Wessel stated the importance of Camp Navajo because of the I-40 DCR. The I-40 DCR preliminary recommendations are to widen the I-40 interstate and part of that decision comes from the modeling results the MPO has done, which shows aggressive growth and an influence of more freight from California growth. Mr. Wessel stressed the importance of monitoring the situation due to the different land use that will attract workers. Mr. Wessel stated the fiscal impacts to the region may be that potential tax base impacts could be out of reach from a sales and property perspective. The recommendation from staff is to monitor the situation as well as put a Freight Advisory Board together to achieve the strategic objectives and utilize them to determine if the next options of the Shippers Association and Port Authority are necessary. Mr. Overton inquired if a Port Authority has the ability to tax and Mr. Wessel responded that they do not. Mr. Wessel mentioned the commander stated that in February the developer and Corp could unveil the draft business plan. Mr. Taylor understood it would confirm the fundamental agreement. Mr. Wessel stated it may move forward in nine months. Mr. Montoya commented on "big players" coming to town and it not developing such as Sawmill that is a "ghost town" and that the City is committed. Mr. Montoya mentioned if there will be stimulus money and how we are going to handle it. Mr. Montoya mentioned as drivers of the community we need to ask many questions and stated Flagstaff is a service orientated community and he is conservative with the issue and sensitive to our image as a community for example the empty parcels on McMillan Mesa. Mr. Wessel stated before a lot of time and money is invested into Camp Navajo be sure there is money, experience, substance and concept plan. Mr. Taylor commented on the need for a coordinated community with a strategic voice and vision. He suggested a Port Authority is a great idea but it

should encompass a larger game plan because there are too many small groups and we need to do better. Mr. Taylor does not want to lose an opportunity. Ms. Evans suggested a freight advisory group be global and not just focus on Belmont. Chair Ryan posed the issue to the Board to support the development of a Freight Advisory Board. The Board agreed to support a Freight Advisory Board and Mr. Wessel will work with Mr. Taylor regarding the unified position of the group concept.

Ms. Evans departed the meeting at 8:55 am a quorum was maintained.

Mr. Wessel explained the snow play areas regarding transportation related issues such as safety, capacity, lanes, costs, transit (shuttle.) Mr. Wessel stated many interested parties/stakeholders (AZ Snowbowl, hotels...) may be interested in funding a study. Mr. Taylor mentioned the February 10, 2010 from 10a-3p a snowplay steering committee meeting and the need to develop a game plan and layout a process and recommended FMPO and ADOT attend. Mr. Overton agrees with the proposal of involving the stakeholders and MPO involvement. Mr. Montoya and Chair Ryan also concur with the MPO snowplay transportation involvement. The Board recommended MPO involvement.

Mr. Wessel discussed Work Program Task 4 Long Range Planning. He stated Mountain Links project is on-going, transit research for 2012 and providing a support role on City and County update of regional plan, transportation analysis. Mr. Wessel explained the ASU Decision Theatre proposal and City staff is requesting \$40,000 with the FMPO to match it. The City is also looking at grants. He mentioned there is also \$30,000 to assist with an on call consultant for the regional plan process.

2. FY 2011-2015 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

Mr. Wessel explained with the TIP and the need to be aware of the census and the formula. He stated currently there is \$9 million divided on a per capita basis amongst the non major metro counties with the cogs and mpos and we should expect (due to slow growth compared to Yuma, Mohave and Bisbee) our percent share to decrease about \$20,000-30,000 from the full amount of the \$400,000-\$500,000. He stated there is a Jobs Bill with Stimulus Round Two funds. ADOT is anticipating the same amount as last year. He mentioned the general consensus of the TAC is that the County received it last year and the City should have it this year. The City is looking at Southside improvement projects and he is working closely with City project management staff. Mr. Wessel stated the Appropriations Bill for FY11 is approaching with a survey from Kirpatrick office going out with rough guidelines of \$500,000 and typically transportation is selected. He stated additionally he is working with Kirpatrick's office regarding \$3 million reserved in the TIP for the last five years dedicated to high priority projects on the bridges of Aspen, Birch and Cherry North related to Rio de Flag. He stated at the time they were bridges over an open channel and now it is a closed channel and is unsure when the Rio de Flag project may happen and is now looking at securing the money and assigning to the Corp and naming it as a match from the City to reduce the City burden. Mr. Wessel stated if the project happens the money is transferred and all is fine if not then the money is gone.

Mr. Taylor commented on levies and dams. Mr. Wessel will generalize the language on the project description and it must be transportation related.

Mr. Adam addressed the Stimulus and Reauthorization issues providing the Board an update. Mr. Adam suggested being proactive. Mr. Montoya commented on pavement preservation. Mr. Montoya stated it is unfortunate airport T-I and Lone Tree are not ready. Mr. Taylor commented on the need to hire local contractors. He suggested

bundling pavement preservation projects for an ability for local contractors to handle projects and a balance needs to be worked out. Mr. Adam recommended the TIP and STIP and to be aware of cost and scope regarding local contractors. Mr. Wessel suggested the City have a JPA (joint project agreement) accelerated process. Mr. Montoya supported the Lone Tree T-I as a possible backup project to the Rio de Flag.

3. Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) Update

There was no discussion.

III. NEW BUSINESS (Continued, postponed, and tabled items.)

1. FMPO Calendar

There was no discussion.

IV. CONCLUDING GENERAL BUSINESS

D. REPORTS

Provided and no discussion.

E. ANNOUNCEMENTS

There were no announcements.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Montoya departed the meeting due to an emergency phone call. The meeting ended due to lack of a quorum and was Chair Ryan adjourned the meeting immediately at 9:47 am.