



**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 ♦ fmppo@flagstaffaz.gov

Approved Minutes Executive Board

9:30 a.m. – 11:00 – Wednesday, March 24, 2010

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

Chair Ryan called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m.

Roll Call.

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

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

Others Present: David Wessel, FMPO Manager; Meg Roederer, FMPO Administrative Specialist; Martin Ince, FMPO Multimodal Planner; Brittani Oatis, FMPO Intern; Jeff Meilbeck, NAIPTA; Caleb Lanting, GHD Sr. Project Manager

I. PRELIMINARY GENERAL BUSINESS

A. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

B. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Wessel requested the Chair adjust the agenda to move Old Business Item Two: FY 2011-2015 TIP as Item 1 before the FY UPWP and New Business Item One: Fifty Miles of FUTS Celebration following the TIP Item. Chair Ryan adjusted the agenda.

C. APPROVAL of MINUTES.

The Minutes were approved after the FY 2011-2015 TIP discussion. There was a brief discussion. Mr. Overton made a motion to approve the meeting of January 27, 2010 (revised) and February 24, 2010 and Mr. Montoya seconded, which carried unanimously.

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

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

Mr. Wessel introduced the topic to the Board. Mr. Meilbeck presented information regarding hybrid electric bus and diesel bus purchase pros and cons to the Board.

Mr. Meilbeck stated 72% of voters want hybrid electric buses and will pay the premium. If hybrid electric buses are not purchased it would need to be addressed with the community. Mr. Meilbeck stated NAIPTA received a grant for \$700,000 that

could essentially buy three bio-diesel buses for the price of two hybrid electrics. Mr. Meilbeck stated the issue could be presented to the community and the City of Flagstaff City Council explaining the funding source but it would require dialog and could not be assumed. Mr. Montoya requested clarification on the grant NAIPTA received, if it was specific for the purchase of hybrid electric buses. Mr. Meilbeck stated, "no" and explained the money was transferred from Sedona because they had federal money that they could not use. It was then moved to Flagstaff for the purchase of two hybrid electric buses by using 8% federal money and 20% of the Proposition 402 transit tax. Mr. Montoya stated if it is not tied to the tax if it would allow us to buy a diesel powered bus. Mr. Meilbeck stated if Proposition 402 funding is not used it may be a non-issue and worth exploring. Mr. Taylor commented on the ecological benefits of the hybrid buses and increased ridership. Mr. Wessel inquired with less expensive buses could more service be on the road and if NAIPTA has the occupational capacity. Mr. Meilbeck stated "no."

Mr. Meilbeck mentioned Proposition 403 was approved for the Mountain Links System from downtown Flagstaff through campus and to Woodland Village. He stated it is a high priority because it is a \$6.2 million dollar federal grant to pay for 80% of the construction and fleet costs. He stated if it is not delivered the money will go away. Mr. Meilbeck stated from a transit planning perspective it is a dense corridor and in terms of economic development and emission reduction it is a great transit route which also delivers on promises made to voters. Mr. Meilbeck stressed the importance to deliver on expectations (FTA) and promises (voters). Mr. Meilbeck stated by getting a grant to purchase buses for the rest of the fleet then resources can be moved to the Mountain Links Project and moving it forward to sure up the entire system. He stated there is a cascading impact. Mr. Wessel mentioned the STP ARRA II funds for the purchase of two hybrid buses. Mr. Wessel inquired about NAIPTA's current fleet replacement need. Mr. Meilbeck stated six are set to be retired and have expired, so two are coming in and we need four more this year and four more next year excluding the Mountain Links projects. Mr. Overton requested if the replacements are hybrid electric buses. Mr. Meilbeck stated theoretically they are hybrid electric unless he receives a grant that will not pay for hybrid electric. Mr. Overton inquired if the entire fleet is going hybrid electric. Mr. Meilbeck responded that hybrid electric buses are the goal. Mr. Overton inquired if it was NAIPTA Board requirement because it is not the best financially. Chair Ryan stated it was in the initial discussion. Mr. Meilbeck stated the direction from the City of Flagstaff is a sustainability policy that needs a hybrid electric fleet but if he has a funding source that will pay for clean new buses and not hybrid electric because it is in the best interest of the community. Mr. Montoya inquired about life expectancy of the buses. Mr. Meilbeck stated it is the same. Mr. Meilbeck stated the cost of diesel buses are \$375,000 and hybrid buses are just over \$500,000. Mr. Overton stated this is one of the options of the \$1.5 million from the Milton Road Corridor Study. Mr. Wessel stated the purchase of buses requires no environmental clearance. Mr. Overton stated NAIPTA did not anticipate the MPO as a funding source and the Board is looking at weighing many options.

Mr. Wessel reviewed the TIP alternatives memo with the Board. Mr. Taylor stated a new TIP alternative to build a signalized intersection at Highway 180 and Quintana as Cultural Park Phase I at an estimated \$1.5 million. Mr. Wessel explained the options as presented in the TIP alternatives memo. Mr. Wessel recapped the Board comments and stated that there is support for Beulah and to bring it forward, interest in the Lone Tree T-I and thirdly there is the transit piece as discussed with Mr. Meilbeck.

There was discussion only and no action.

1. FY 2011 Unified Planning Work Program

Mr. Wessel updated Board on the FY2011 Work Program and referred to the staff report in the agenda packet. Mr. Wessel mentioned updating the land use model at an estimate of \$20,000, recreation impacts finalizing the scope with some planning funds available from ADOT, and \$25,000 for a potential research effort with NAU to do a real-time/travel time with cell phones and message boards. He mentioned the pavement maintenance cost model and projections at \$40,000. There was discussion only and no action.

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

1. Fifty Miles of FUTS Celebration

Mr. Ince introduced the topic of the 50 Miles of FUTS Celebration and Ms. Oatis presented a PowerPoint on the celebration plans. Mr. Taylor suggested dedicating a section of trail to honor Ms. Cooper. Mr. Taylor stated Highway 180 has many archeological sites and points of interests as well as bird watching opportunities. Chair Ryan suggested contacting Mr. Stine to provide research on FUTS trails and railroad beds as well as Mr. Stevens to tie in the springs and perhaps NATRA with 5k or 10k runs. Mr. Overton mentioned adopt-a-trail opportunities and to build synergy. There was discussion only.

2. State Long Range Plan

Mr. Wessel explained an appointment of a Board representative is necessary to be on the ADOT Policy Committee that builds on the BqAZ process with the creation of a state long range plan on "What Moves You Arizona." He stated ADOT anticipates four meetings over the course of the year that will focus more on policy issues and less on process updates. Mr. Taylor made a motion to nominate Mr. Overton to the Committee and Chair Ryan as the alternate. Mr. Montoya seconded, which passed unanimously. Mr. Wessel mentioned the MPO will cover travel expenses to the meetings.

3. City Bond Advisory Task Force Recommendations

Mr. Wessel presented a strategy to remind the Council of the transportation benefits of the Lone Tree Overpass. Mr. Overton commented it may be too premature to discuss and to give the public an opportunity to comment. Chair Ryan expressed the need to put in a transportation perspective. The Board recommended tabling the discussion for the next Board meeting. Mr. Wessel will draft a letter to be presented at the next meeting authorizing the Chairman to send a letter to the Council and to address the Council. Mr. Overton made a motion to table the item and Mr. Taylor seconded, which passed unanimously.

4. Staff Reports

Mr. Wessel stated there is an April 6, 2010 BOS presentation on the 89a/JW Powell redesign. Mr. Montoya advocates for the design and emphasizes the need to complete the plan. Mr. Montoya suggested attending a public hearing to make sure it is still in the plan. There are hearings in April at Oro Valley, in May at Sedona and in June here in Flagstaff. Mr. Montoya stated talking points on the Lone Tree T-I should be ready later this week. Mr. Overton stated they are done because it was used in DC. The Board supported Mr. Wessel traveling to Oro Valley with the talking points if necessary. Mr. Wessel stated the feds will be in Flagstaff for an IPG meeting following the April Executive Board meeting and invited Board members to meet them if available.

5. FMPO Calendar

Mr. Montoya will check his calendar for conflicts and will notify the MPO if they arise. Ms. Roederer stated Mr. Harper will attend the August meeting. Mr. Montoya stated his Board term is complete in six months. Chair Ryan mentioned this as an agenda item for

further discussion at a later meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Ryan adjourned the meeting at 11:03 am.