



**FLAGSTAFF METROPOLITAN
PLANNING ORGANIZATION**
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Approved Minutes
Executive Board
8:00 a.m., Wednesday, August 25, 2010

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

Chair Ryan called the meeting to order at 8:05 a.m.

Roll Call.

Present: Matt Ryan, Supervisor Coconino County; John Harper (designated alternate), Arizona Department of Transportation; Scott Overton, Councilmember City of Flagstaff; Mandy Metzger (designated alternate)

Absent/Excused: Sara Presler, Mayor City of Flagstaff; Coral Evans, Councilmember City of Flagstaff; Carl Taylor, Supervisor Coconino County; Bob Montoya, Arizona Department of Transportation;

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

I. PRELIMINARY GENERAL BUSINESS

A. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

B. ANNOUNCEMENTS

None

C. APPROVAL of MINUTES.

Mr. Overton made a motion to approve the meeting of June 23, 2010 and Ms. Metzger seconded, which carried unanimously.

II. OLD BUSINESS

None

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

1. Rotation of Officers and Change of Venue

Mr. Wessel explained the standard rotation as the State (Bob Montoya) becoming the Chair and the City (Scott Overton) as Vice Chair with ADOT as the new meeting location. There was Board comment regarding Mr. Montoya's term expiring in December and his replacement is unknown. The new member may not be familiar with the MPO or may have difficulty attending and there may be a need to rely on the designated alternate (John Harper.) The Board suggested it may be necessary that there should be more than one State member and perhaps an additional designated alternate such as Ms.

Jennifer Toth. Mr. Wessel stated that staff will follow up on an additional designated alternate. Mr. Overton stated he is interested in remaining on the MPO Board and acting as vice chair. He stated there is a delay at the City appointing elected officials to boards and committees but he has requested to stay on the MPO Board. Ms. Metzger made a motion to do a standard rotation with Mr. Montoya as Chair and Mr. Overton as Vice Chair with the venue change to ADOT and Mr. Harper seconded, which carried unanimously.

2. I-40 Design Concept Report Update

Mr. Wessel stated ADOT held a public outreach event in August on the I-40 DCR with approximately 30 people in attendance. He stated there were the same issues at the outreach meetings that were at the scoping meetings regarding traffic moving safely and efficiently, wildlife movement and future development and they were addressed. There was a new concern from the City on the impact to the medians regarding construction. The reason to widen the medians was made early because of right of way issues and construction issues. At the meeting aerial photos were shown with the impact to the medians. Mr. Wessel stated cut and fill lines met in the middle and there were concerns on character impacts. Mr. Wessel mentioned the DCR looks at the 2040 design period and is addressing the issues he just outlined, the outreach is solid and the solutions and alternatives thus far are in keeping with the Regional Transportation Plan in terms of long term needs and goals. He stated the public is satisfied regarding sensitivity and sound impacts. Mr. Wessel drove the length of the corridor with Karl Eberhard (City Urban Planner) and Bob Caravona (City Long Range Planner) the County and Forest Service was invited as well but unable to attend. They looked at the possible impacts and opportunities and submitted the comments to the design team at ADOT and the consultant. He stated the good news is there are there opportunities in the existing scheme and some places where the medians are sufficiently wide and impact can be absorbed. He met with Mr. Harper and he will examine it and address it in the process. Mr. Wessel mentioned the narrowest area he saw on the plan sheet was 124 ft.; therefore, it is a generous median but the challenge becomes with a 12 ft shoulder and the cut and fill to support it and it encroaches into the middle. Mr. Wessel showed the Board maps demonstrating the concern and cited the Belmont area and Butler interchange as examples. Mr. Overton commented on the importance of land use and clearing projects have taken place. Ms. Metzger commented about safety concerns regarding on-coming lights, elk in the median and increased activity regarding Casino development near twin arrows. Mr. Wessel stated traffic has been factored in regarding twin arrows. Mr. Overton commented on a vegetation plan through replacement and mitigation. Mr. Wessel reiterated it is in concert with the RTP and ADOT has been a good partner to address the issues.

Mr. Wessel spoke with Judy Adams at the Forest Service representing the DCR issue and widening to the outside may have impacts to forest service property. Ms. Adams needs to receive the information and confirm it is in context with the forest service management plan before taking a position on widening medians to the outside. Chair Ryan stressed it is important to follow-up with the Forest Service and that comments are relayed appropriately. Chair Ryan suggested a letter may be necessary. Mr. Wessel stated ADOT needs to be in control of the information and dialog. Mr. Harper stated it may be the Regional Plan as one voice to ADOT. Chair Ryan suggested initiating the conversation through the FMPO RTP. Mr. Wessel suggested a meeting with Judy Adam and the Monument with Bob Caravona and Bill Towler in order to reach a consensus. Ms. Metzger requests Mr. Wessel notify her of the meeting details. Ms. Metzger requested clarification on the 89 bypass interchange language presented in the staff report, "the bypass is supported in the FMPO Regional Transportation Plan but is not part of the official local policy." Mr. Wessel responded and stated in the mandated and

adopted RTP it recommends the 89 Bypass. The plan is advisory to the region (City and County) but is not official policy and it is being considered in the I40 DCR. Chair Ryan commented on right away acquisition occurring earlier. Mr. Harper stated it depends on which project comes first. Mr. Harper suggested different terminology in regard to the 89 Bypass.

3. What Moves You Arizona – State Long Range Plan Update

Mr. Wessel provided an update on the What Moves You Arizona (WMYAZ) process. Mr. Wessel displayed the website <http://whatmovesyouarizona.gov> to the Board. Mr. Overton commented on the WMYAZ process and attended a meeting telephonically. Mr. Overton expressed frustration on the process because there was too much review and not enough discussion on the issues. Mr. Adam commented that there will not be much discussion and emphasis on revenue. He stated there will be discussion on a holistic approach. Mr. Wessel stated he forwarded Mr. Overton's frustrations to Mr. Zumpf and Ms. Toth regarding the process. There is another Policy meeting scheduled and Mr. Wessel will follow-up on the meeting date. Mr. Wessel reiterated that outreach has been good and responsive. Chair Ryan commented on the BqAZ process and commerce zones in the Napolitano era. Mr. Wessel summarized the comments as the impact of transportation on the economy and economic zones that are practical for trade as well as an organization COG level approach and if there is enough attention on recognizing the distinctions.

4. Legislative Update-Rural Transportation Advocacy Council

Chair Ryan introduced Mr. Adam, RTAC Director to the Board. There was a brief discussion on the election results from the August 24, 2010 primary election. Mr. Adam provided an update on the recent legislative actions at the federal and state levels. Mr. Adam mentioned in January base revenue collection annual comparisons of the last 15 months of revenue loss had ceased and there are signs of recovery. He stated a big issue has been optimistic forecasting which has stopped. He stated there are two ballot measures in November to allow the legislature to tap into the growing smarter and first things first funds and the budget assumes they will receive 500 million if it passes and he does not expect that to happen and we will see some level of adjustments. He stated local governments potentially shared revenues could be at risk and with ADOT operation budget could be affected with a 5% cut. Mr. Adam was surprised rest areas were re-opened. He was concerned with snow removal operations and believes ADOT may need to make additional cuts this year. He stated there is no change with the state contribution to highway construction because it essentially "zeroed out." The current extension to SAFETEA-LU expires this calendar year and there may be a lame duck session of Congress to extend it and there may be discussion about long term reauthorization. Mr. Adam stated there may be more gridlock in DC based on national elections and it may stall. Mr. Adam suggested being proactive to keep what we have. Mr. Adam demonstrated apportionment and obligation authority (OA) process to the Executive Board explaining the accounting "gimmick" and cuts. Mr. Overton stated the state picture is "real" and the federal picture is a "false dollar." Mr. Adam agreed with Mr. Overton's assessment. Mr. Adam stated an issue brief and talking points are coming soon and hopefully by Friday, August 27, 2010.

Mr. Adam stated the next RTAC meeting is in mid-October at the Rural Transportation Summit scheduled from October 13-15, 2010 at Litchfield Park. Mr. Wessel stated to contact the FMPO regarding utilizing the MPO budget for travel expenses. Mr. Wessel recommended delaying the nomination and appointment of an FMPO representative to the RTAC due to City delay on board and committee appointments. Mr. Overton stated there will be appointments by next Tuesday, August 31, 2010.

5. FY 2011 Retreat Planning

Mr. Wessel reviewed retreat planning with the Board. Mr. Wessel stated the date as September 22, 2010 and the time is undetermined perhaps later morning into lunch and the location is at the Aquaplex. The topics are FMPO capacity and macro-trends regarding land use and transportation policy with legislative or regulatory action. Ms. Metzger mentioned she has background papers available to share from Environmental, Land use and Energy committee of NACO. Mr. Wessel will contact Ms. Metzger.

6. FMPO Calendar

Mr. Wessel reviewed the calendar with the Board. Mr. Overton suggested the meeting time and day may need to be adjusted.

IV. CONCLUDING GENERAL BUSINESS

D. REPORTS

Mr. Wessel reviewed the staff report briefly with the Board.

E. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Harper commented on I-40 dust storms and if it is at the state level. Ms. Metzger stated individuals at Meteor Crater are working on that issue. Chair Ryan commented on Ms. Metzger experience at the federal level.

V. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Ryan adjourned the meeting at 9:58 a.m.