



# FLAGSTAFF METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION

CITY OF FLAGSTAFF ♦ COCONINO COUNTY ♦ ARIZONA DOT

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## *Action Summary* **Executive Board**

**8:00 a.m., Wednesday, March 23, 2011**

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

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

### **Roll Call.**

**Present:** Chair Scott Overton, Councilmember City of Flagstaff; Carl Taylor, Supervisor Coconino County; Matt Ryan, Supervisor Coconino County; Jennifer Toth, Arizona Department of Transportation; Coral Evans, Councilmember City of Flagstaff

### **Excused Absent:**

Art Babbott, Councilmember City of Flagstaff;

### **Others Present:**

David Wessel, FMPO Manager; Meg Roederer, FMPO Administrative Specialist; Jeff Meilbeck, NAIPTA General Manager

## **I. PRELIMINARY GENERAL BUSINESS**

### **A. PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

### **B. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Mr. Wessel requested an adjustment of the agenda and move New Business Item 1: NAIPTA Update and Organizational Study Proposal as the first item of discussion, Chair Overton and the Board agreed.

### **C. APPROVAL of MINUTES.**

Mr. Taylor made a motion to approve the Minutes of January 26, 2011 and Mr. Ryan seconded, which passed unanimously.

## **II. NEW BUSINESS (Continued, postponed, and tabled items.)**

### **1. NAIPTA Update and Organizational Study Proposal**

The agenda was adjusted to discuss this item first. Mr. Wessel introduced the topic and Mr. Meilbeck, NAIPTA General Manager, presented a PowerPoint presentation to update the Board on NAIPTA activity including the Mountain Links Bus Rapid Transit project.

The Board discussed the possibility of hiring a consultant to investigate a NAIPTA and FMPO merger. Based on Board member comments, Mr. Meilbeck stated the strategy to lay out is developing a stakeholder list and to get clear on risks and opportunities including fatal flaws before investing money and time of looking at a project that may not go anywhere. The Board approved

Mr. Meilbeck's approach to gather a team that is based on Board recommendation consisting of Mr. Wessel, Mr. Meilbeck, a TAC member, FMPO Board member, NAIPTA Board member, a Cottonwood member that could participate by phone, and one or two stakeholders from an economic development perspective to meet a few times before hiring a consultant in order to develop a scope of work that would examine organizational relationships between NAIPTA and FMPO, including merger options, and avoid a consultant driven process. There was discussion only.

### **III. OLD BUSINESS (Continued, postponed, and tabled items.)**

#### **1. FY 2011 Highway Safety Improvement Program & Projects**

Mr. Wessel provided a brief status update of the FY 2011 Highway Safety Improvement Program & Projects and stated the Benefit/cost analyses were completed and eligibility requests submitted. Mr. Wessel stated we are receiving the full \$600,000 to be allocated to the program and now the critical path is the JPA and we are taking steps to get it taken care. Mr. Wessel stated that eligibility is not secured but the paperwork is in to approve all the projects eligible. Mr. Wessel stated the safety program training was canceled for 3/23/11 and will be rescheduled. There was discussion only.

#### **2. Legislative and Regulatory Update and Review**

Mr. Wessel stated this is the standing item that was requested. Ms. Toth commented on budget reductions. Chair Overton reported on the RTAC meeting he attended. Mr. Ryan handed out information on a freight conference April 27-29, 2011 in Chicago, Illinois. Mr. Ryan recommended Mr. Wessel attend and he could come up with transportation costs. Mr. Wessel stated next month to have a discussion on positions of federal reauthorization issues and if we don't have a full set of policy we should support indexing in the short term. Mr. Taylor stated he has well prepared bullet points, position papers, and statistics on County impacts especially on HURF and can supply that from Joanne Keene to Mr. Wessel. Chair Overton made a motion to authorize the Chair to submit a letter to support County positions on delegation opposing permitting lapsed authorization of secure schools and payment in lieu of taxes that impacts the County's ability to maintain roads through the USFS and Ms. Evans seconded, which passed unanimously. Chair Overton stated it echoes the City position in HURF funding and they parlay regionally and it is great.

### **IV. NEW BUSINESS (Continued, postponed, and tabled items.)**

#### **2. FMPO FY 2012-2016 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)**

Mr. Wessel explained the FY 2012-2016 TIP "call for projects" for projects has been released. Mr. Wessel stated we are looking at moving forward on routine draw downs of STP funds to support the planning operations such as the traffic count program. Mr. Wessel stated the more immediate issue is the opportunity to partner with ADOT on the federal "Every Day Counts" initiative for Adaptive Signal Control technology. Mr. Wessel requested permission from the Board to commit \$100-150,000 to put up against what is tentatively \$150,000 commitment from ADOT to fund a pilot project. Mr. Wessel stated we may end up amending an old TIP because the FY11 TIP is not authorized by the Feds but it is submitted and under review and so, if we get to that point we may amend the FY10 TIP. Mr. Wessel stated this could be pushed off until the April meeting until there is stronger action and more planning. Chair Overton requested more information on the significance of funding it at this time and if it is truly a priority of the state and why we are doing this and if it can be deferred and wants more background. Chair Overton stated the implementation is fine but expressed a concern of spending \$150,000 to study it. Mr. Wessel stated an option may be to do this in-house and work a process that arrives at a reasonable conclusion that says this technology is appropriate for this project without having to invest a lot of money on a study but eventually designing and implementation will require some consultant expertise. Mr. Wessel will report back on moving forward with the topic next month at the April meeting. There was discussion only.

#### **3. Doney Park Multimodal Transportation Plan Update**

Mr. Wessel stated the plan is moving ahead on schedule with a technical meeting next Monday (3-

28-11), public outreach has been done and putting together the program of projects. Mr. Wessel stated the big issue and primary focus was non-motorized connectivity and equestrian issues. He referred the Board to a map on page 17 of the agenda packet and the agenda PowerPoint presentation and explained the boundaries. There was discussion only.

#### **4. US 180 Winter Congestion Study and Travel Time Study**

Mr. Wessel stated HDR, Inc. received the contract and the Notice to Proceed will be issued shortly. Mr. Wessel is looking for synergy with the Regional Plan 2012 effort. The Board made comments on the issue. Chair Overton commented on the need for private participation. Ms. Evans commented on the need to seek funding now, importance of involving the businesses on Milton, stressed the need to include the residents in the neighborhoods and that they need to be heard and offer solutions that work for them. Mr. Ryan commented on the confusion between the Highway 180 and Fremont project and this Study and it needs to be made clear with the public. Ms. Evans expressed she understands transportation takes a long time but the delay is unacceptable and inquired about a master plan and stressed implementation of solutions. Mr. Taylor stated he supports a study to verify what we know. Mr. Taylor stated he appreciates what Mr. Wessel is doing. There was discussion only.

#### **5. Regional Plan 2012 Planning Assistance for Rural Areas Grant**

Mr. Wessel explained the information on data collection, contract award and status on this project and referred the Board to the PowerPoint (page 18 of the agenda packet). He stated the PARA grant has been awarded. Scope coordination issues between ADOT, Core Team, Technical Consultant, Public Involvement consultant, ASU Decision Theater, Rural Policy Institute and modeling consultant is underway. Mr. Wessel stated focus will be on asking the right questions and fashioning the scenarios accordingly. There was discussion only.

#### **6. FMPO Calendar**

Mr. Wessel covered important dates as indicated in the PowerPoint (page 19 of the agenda packet) and future agenda items.

- April Agenda
  - I-40 DCR
  - Steves/Fanning Railroad Crossings
  - TIP & UPWP
- May Agenda
  - Corridor coalitions
  - TIP & UPWP
- Special Events
  - Corridor retreat: local, state or multi-state
  - What Moves You Arizona
    - March 21, 2011 – release of video and survey
    - April 13, 2011 – focus groups
  - Intermodal Planning Group: March 28
  - ADOT Dinner & 5-Year Construction Program: May 19 & 20, 2011

Ms. Toth explained pavement preservation programming. Ms. Evans commented on the discussion of adding a project, which is the Fourth Street corner of Cedar and Locket. Ms. Roederer will schedule a meeting with Mr. Wessel and Ms. Evans to discuss project process. Mr. Ryan suggested a site meeting with Mr. Wessel and Ms. Metzger regarding the Bypass Study. Ms. Roederer stated the May regular meeting will need to be rescheduled due to County budget meetings and will be contacting the members on a new May meeting date and time. Chair Overton stated he will not be available at the April meeting. Ms. Evans stated it is on her calendar and plans to attend. There was discussion only.

## **V. CONCLUDING GENERAL BUSINESS**

### **D. REPORTS**

There was no discussion.

**E. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Ms. Toth announced possible new ASTB member, Hank Rogers, from the town of Eagar and that he is pending confirmation from the Senate. Ms. Toth stated his background as the director of a non-profit economic development group, a local insurance agent, he builds log homes, has been part of the school board and his wife is on the Eagar City Council. Ms Toth stated they are hopeful he will be confirmed and be able to attend the April Board Meeting. Chair Overton offered to make contact with him when the confirmation comes through.

Mr. Wessel requested feedback on the agenda packet. Chair Overton wanted more information on the rationale of the technical side for example on the adaptive signal control. Ms. Evans stated try not to exceed more than five more pages.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Overton adjourned the meeting 9:54 a.m.