



**FLAGSTAFF METROPOLITAN
PLANNING ORGANIZATION**
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Approved Minutes
Executive Board
8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m., Wednesday, February 27, 2013

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

Chair Ryan called the meeting to order at 8:15 a.m.

Roll Call

Present: Chair Matt Ryan, Supervisor Coconino County; Mark Woodson, Councilmember City of Flagstaff; Floyd Roehrich, Arizona Department of Transportation (designated alternate for Hank Rogers)(telephonic); Art Babbott, Coconino County District Supervisor (designated alternate for Mandy Metzger)(telephonic)

Absent: Vice Chair Coral Evans, Councilmember City of Flagstaff; Jeff Oravits, Councilmember City of Flagstaff

Others Present:

David Wessel, FMPO Manager; Justine Otto, FMPO Administrative Specialist Temp

I. PRELIMINARY GENERAL BUSINESS

A. PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

B. ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

C. APPROVAL of MINUTES.

Mr. Woodson made a motion to approve the Minutes of January 23, 2013 and Mr. Roehrich seconded, motion passed unanimously.

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

1. Legislative and Regulatory Update and Review

Mr. Wessel overviewed RTAC's meeting and recommended requesting incremental decreases in funding raids. Mr. Wessel inquired if the Board had any statements for him to take when he attended the AMPO Board meeting in Washington D.C. Mr. Roehrich stated that the decision to reimburse ADOT for the repair of US 89 would be made by the Federal Highway Association, which is located in D.C. The Board discussed the damage to US 89 and the funding necessary to repair it. Mr. Roehrich confirmed that the funding would come from ADOT's program and could take 2-5 years for the federal reimbursement assuming emergency status designation. It was agreed that a more sustained funding source for all transportation was needed for the future. Mr. Wessel

requested authorization for the chair to sign a cover letter over the RTAC position paper to stop the HURF raids. Mr. Roehrich abstained due to conflicting interests, requesting that the letter clearly be from the FMPO and local interests. The rest of the Board approved the drafting of the letter.

2. Draft FY 2014 Unified Planning Work Program and Budget

Mr. Wessel stated that based on the TAC's recommendation the Regional Transportation Plan task would focus on updating data and tools, and wait until FY 2015 for a formal update to avoid confusion with the Regional Plan public outreach in 2014. He confirmed that they would also work with NAIPTA on the Milton Road Study. There was discussion only.

3. I-11 Feasibility Study Update

Mr. Wessel gave the Board an update, stating that that the last I-11 focus group had been earlier in the month and that the current phase of the study would wrap up in April. The question that emerged was whether or not funding for the I-11 would come from rural transportation funds. It was agreed that spacing standards were needed for future utility installation along the interstate. The Board discussed the changes the Interstate could have on the local economy, both positive and negative. The I-11 could bring traffic up from Phoenix and down from Vegas, but could also completely bypass local cities. Mr. Wessel stated that even if bypassed, Flagstaff and other local areas would still draw plenty of traffic on their own merits. Mr. Roehrich stated that Marisa Walker would be heading up a study this summer of the potential economic effects. It was stated that road improvements would need a funding source and toll had not yet been ruled out. There was discussion only.

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

4. Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendment – Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP)

Mr. Wessel stated that the TAC had recommended the amendment to the Board, outlining the loans the FMPO would make to ADOT and the projects it would affect, including the guardrail and sign replacement projects. According to the amendment the funds would be repaid in FY 2015. Mr. Woodson moved to approve the amendment, Mr. Babbott seconded, motion passed unanimously.

5. Freight Market Analysis

Chair Ryan recommended saving the full discussion of the analysis for when more of the Board was present, Mr. Wessel agreed to include the topic in the next agenda. Mr. Wessel briefly overviewed the analysis, confirming that based on the threshold the BNSF Railway Company set in their previous study, Flagstaff had the 100,000-200,000 freight per year necessary to support a freight center. He stated that there had been outside interest in the possibility from ECoNA, the Army, the state, and from shippers. Mr. Babbott questioned if the I-11 would affect out freight numbers, and Mr. Wessel stated that regional traffic should be unaffected and we should maintain our current volume, but further assessment may be needed to confirm. There was discussion only, with the understanding that the topic would be addressed at the next Board meeting.

6. FMPO Working Calendar

Mr. Wessel stated that the FMPO would continue refining the Work Program and TIP, and that due to an accounting error the budget was currently at zero, which would affect the LED streetlight project but could be balanced by not planning any projects for FY 2018. Due to ADOT's State

Transportation Board holding a meeting in Flagstaff May 10th, the FMPO will host their Annual Board Dinner May 9th.

7. ADOT 5-Year Construction Program and US 89

Mr. Roehrich stated that for the next few years ADOT would focus funding towards preservation of current road systems to keep the performance levels steady. He confirmed that the State Transportation Board was waiting for public input on three program alternatives before moving forward. There was discussion only.

IV. CONCLUDING GENERAL BUSINESS

A. REPORTS

There was no discussion.

B. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Montoya is still hospitalized and not allowed visitors. The Board will send a card to his family. The Arizona Conference on Roads and Streets will be held March 27-29 at the Tucson JW Marriott Starr Pass Resort.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Ryan adjourned the meeting 9:41 a.m.