



**FLAGSTAFF METROPOLITAN
PLANNING ORGANIZATION**
CITY OF FLAGSTAFF ♦ COCONINO COUNTY ♦ ARIZONA DOT
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Approved Minutes
Executive Board
8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m., Wednesday, January 22, 2014

ADOT, Conference Room
1801 S. Milton, Flagstaff, AZ 86001

Regular meetings and work sessions are open to the public. Persons with a disability may request a reasonable accommodation by contacting the City of Flagstaff City Clerk's Office at 928-779-7607. The FMPO complies with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 to involve and assist underrepresented and underserved populations (age, gender, color, income status, race, national origin and LEP – Limited English Proficiency.) Requests should be made by contacting the FMPO at 928-213-2651 as early as possible to allow time to arrange the accommodation. ***A quorum of the TAC may be present.***

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

Roll Call:

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS

Chuck Gillick, ADOT (designated alternate for Audra Merrick)
Mark Woodson, Vice Chair, Flagstaff City Council
Matt Ryan, Coconino County Board of Supervisors
Art Babbott, Coconino County Board of Supervisors
Coral Evans, Flagstaff City Council

FMPO STAFF

David Wessel, FMPO Manager
Sydney Francis, Administrative Specialist

OTHER ATTENDEES

Kevin Adam, Director of Rural Transportation Advocacy Council (telephonic)
Julian Avila, Public Affairs Manager ADOT

I. PRELIMINARY GENERAL BUSINESS

A. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

B. ANNOUNCEMENTS

None

C. APPROVAL of MINUTES.

Board Action: Mr. Woodson moved to approve the minutes from [Special Meeting December 11, 2013](#). Mr. Babbott seconded the motion. All were in favor of approving the minutes from Special Meeting of December 11, 2013.

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

1. Legislative and Regulatory Update and Review

Mr. Wessel introduced Kevin Adam of the Rural Transportation Advocacy Council (RTAC) and turned the topic over to Mr. Adam. Mr. Adam provided an update on HURF transfers and the current Arizona State legislative climate in support of ending the HURF transfers. The State Representative leaders signed a bipartisan letter to eliminate the HURF transfers in the Governor's Budget. In addition the Senate President came out in support of eliminating HURF transfers. Currently, Governor Brewer's budget maintains the HURF sweeps. There is support at the State level for investment in transportation infrastructure, with an emphasis on funding DPS with the general fund as opposed to HURF. Governor Brewer anticipates revenue to restore HURF funds, even with the loss of the 1 cent sales tax. Governor Brewer is using HURF funds as a bargaining chip. RTAC is reinforcing their position regarding HURF funds and reinstating the HURF exchange program with the Governor and the legislature. Excess State revenues could be directed to other priorities, such as CPS and K-12 education. In addition, Governor Brewer would like to make additional tax cuts.

Mr. Adam encouraged the Board to get the message out, especially to Scott Smith and Michael Hunter. The Governor is politicizing the HURF exchange program to use as a political bargaining chip. Mr. Adam added that there is support by the Governor to re-instate the HURF exchange program.

Ms. Evans attended a meeting for rural leaders and she was under the impression that the Governor's budget was going to restore the HURF funds. Mr. Adam clarified that there was support for reinstating the HURF exchange program, but not eliminating the HURF transfers. Mr. Wessel added that this means there is no additional funding for transportation, but rather the exchange of State and Federal funds. Mr. Woodson stated that the HURF exchange program allows for a reduction in paperwork, a reduction in rules and restrictions, and the greater flexibility for locals to administer their transportation projects.

Mr. Woodson stated there was a AZTA meeting with legislators coming up on Thursday, January 30th. Mr. Adam added that there was also an RTAC meeting with rural legislators on Monday, January 27th. Mr. Wessel stated that he served on the AMPO Board and that there is a meeting scheduled for the week of Spring break.

Mr. Wessel concluded this discussion by stating that the Arizona Rural Transportation Summit had a presentation from NARC, in which gas tax emerged as one of the few means for increasing transportation revenues. The states are taking independent action. The Federal focus is on ports.

There was discussion only.

Julian Avila joined the meeting at 8:22 a.m.

2. I-11 Feasibility Study Update

Mr. Wessel reported on an ADOT presentation from January 21, 2014 on alternative route alignment analysis, including 19 in the south, bypassing Phoenix joining up in Wickenburg. North of Wickenburg, 93 is the default corridor. The shortfall of 93 is that it cannot support multimodal transportation. There is one more round of analysis to establish feasible alternatives. The economic development assessment is still in progress.

Ms. Evans asked about the proposed economic impact study. Mr. Wessel replied that it is not being done yet. Mr. Woodson asked how broad the economic impact study will be and if it will include Flagstaff. Ms. Evans asked for clarification on the bypass of Tucson. Mr. Woodson described the route

and added that I-10 cannot handle the existing capacity. Mr. Wessel added that there is an emphasis on keeping this additional traffic off I-10 around Phoenix, as well.

Mr. Ryan stated that Arizona is losing the battle to Texas for national prioritization and for the NAFTA corridor. I-11 will be a lower priority than the Texas corridor. Mr. Woodson added that I-11 will have to be a national project with its own funding. Mr. Gillick stated that the FHWA has not constructed an interstate recently and the State does not have the money to fund this project. Mr. Wessel added that it looked like there might be piecemeal improvements moving highways toward interstate standards; some of the funding may come through freight. Mr. Woodson stated a toll road may be an option for the future, but not on existing corridors.

Mr. Avila stated that there is a meeting in Kingman on Thursday, January 23rd at 9 a.m. and one in Las Vegas, NV, today, January, 22nd, 2014 at 9 a.m. PST.

Mr. Babbott asked whether land use was being considered and how future development on large residential tracks weighed into the discussion. Mr. Wessel replied that one criteria for I-11 is in how it fits into existing local and regional plans. Generally there is support for this kind of development. Mr. Woodson reiterated the point that land owners benefit from the development of an interstate.

Ms. Evans emphasized that she would like to see a much broader economic impact study. There was discussion only.

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

3. Transportation Improvement Program Amendments

Mr. Wessel presented a request by NAIPTA to amend the transit table to increase funding for the Kaspar facility expansion project due to updated cost estimates. The TIP change recognizes recent grant awards, namely, a FY2013 5307 award of \$688,274 matched by \$172,069 in local funds, and a federal 5339 competitive grant award of approximately \$2.3 million (due to recipient status these appear in the State TIP) both to be obligated in FY2014. These have the effect of changing the total unfunded amount in illustrative year FY2018 to \$1,961,452 federal and \$490,363 local.

Board Action: Mr. Ryan moved to amend the TIP to include the above changes. Mr. Babbott seconded the amendment. All were in favor.

4. FY 2015 Unified Planning Work Program Discussion

Mr. Wessel sought Board input to the FY2015 UPWP. Several projects will carry forward including parts of the Regional Transportation Plan, Freight, and Milton Road studies. About \$52,000 will be available for programming in 2015 absent any additional funds or transfers from the surface transportation program. Mr. Wessel recommended that primary focus be on RTP outreach and document production.

Secondarily, funding for city and county public works and planning staff training in GIS and/or Operations & Maintenance to increase the expertise and abilities of City and County staff. There was wide-spread support among the Board for training. Mr. Woodson asked if there was training on pavement evaluation that could keep the City and County from having to rely on outside consultants. Mr. Gillick recommended that the City, County and ADOT get together to receive training, such that there is coordination and that each agency is working toward the same end. Mr. Wessel stated that he would look for opportunities to coordinate these efforts. Mr. Babbott stated that coordination on pavement preservation and pavement evaluation between agencies could be highlighted for the

November election. Mr. Wessel stated that there might be an opportunity to partner with state on their pavement management program and learn from their best practices manual.

There was discussion only.

Mr. Wessel asked the Board to review Item #6 on the agenda, before #5.

6. Regional Transportation Plan Technical Update Stakeholder List

Mr. Wessel sought Board input and approval of a list of invitees to attend a stakeholder kick-off meeting for the Regional Transportation Plan Technical update. As this is primarily a technical update, the role for stakeholders will be limited to an introductory meeting at the beginning of the process and a review and comment meeting at the end. A full public participation process will be conducted in FY 2015. A list of suggested invitees was submitted to the Board with the agenda packet.

The members of the Board asked Dave a lot of questions about the role and function of the stakeholder's group. There was widespread agreement among the board members that getting into a values and policy discussion with an RTP stakeholder's group is unwieldy and unwanted at this time, in particular on the heels of the Flagstaff Regional Plan.

Ms. Evans suggested that for a future RTP, a policy and values discussion could be included, but for the short term she suggested the RTP update focus on a technical update, as has been done in the past. There was consensus among the Board to keep the focus of the RTP on a technical update. Mr. Woodson suggested that the timing of the RTP update report be moved back to December from August.

The Board recommended to the FMPO to keep the scope of the RTP effort narrow focused on the technical update, rather than including a policy and values discussion with additional stakeholders for the RTP effort. Ms. Evans emphasized that the RTP report should be timed for release in December, not conflicting with the November election. There was discussion only.

5. FMPO Retreat Review

Mr. Wessel reviewed the insights that came out of the FMPO Executive Board retreat. The Board discussed the FMPO's role and responsibility within the region in facilitating coordination on transportation projects.

Mr. Woodson requested a list of specific actions from the Retreat be included with the agenda packet. He also requested a copy of the TAC action summary.

Mr. Wessel stated that the starting point for this process is the MPO's Federal mandate, including the production of the RTP, UPWP and the TIP, as well as the supporting documents of a public participation plan and treating the public fairly via Title VI engagement.

Mr. Woodson stated that one of the functions of the FMPO is to coordinate the agencies and to be a unifying voice between the City, County and ADOT.

Mr. Babbott stated that is helpful for him to read the summary of the vision and the mission of the FMPO to remind the Board of its function. Mr. Ryan added that the FMPO plays an important role in regional coordination. Mr. Woodson stated that the FMPO is not the lead, but rather the coordinator. Mr. Wessel reported on feedback from the Retreat, including what Jeff Meilbeck said in that the FMPO is about improving transportation performance.

Mr. Wessel emphasized the importance of collective training, so that the various agencies can speak the same language and make the employees more skilled within their jobs.

Mr. Woodson stated that the FMPO can be a vehicle for coordination and dialog, speaking on behalf of the region to a broader audience, about the FMPO region's unique needs and transportation features.

There was discussion only.

7. FMPO Working Calendar

Mr. Wessel gave a brief overview of the FMPO working calendar. The agenda on the next meeting will include the work program, transportation improvement program process and legislative update. If possible, updates on I-11 and freight will be made.

Mr. Ryan asked if consideration was given to changing the times of the Executive Board meeting. There was widespread consensus among the board members that Wednesday at 8 a.m. was the best time to achieve a quorum. The meeting time and date will remain as is. There was discussion only.

IV. CONCLUDING GENERAL BUSINESS

A. REPORTS

- 1) Technical Advisory Committee
- 2) Staff Report

Mr. Wessel announced that there is a news release from NAIPTA, which highlights the bus shelter program and the use of FMPO funds to build the new bus shelters.

Staff is on track with the FUTS signage program.

Mr. Gillick announced the project at 89A and J.W. Powell will be opening for bid on February 21st and will be awarded in March. He stated that the issues regarding the utilities were resolving themselves.

Mr. Woodson gave an update from City Council on the Beulah Blvd/P3 extension, stating that the plan is to move Harkins to the mall first and then move ADOT. It is not clear who is going to pay to move Harkins to the mall. There was discussion only.

B. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Avila announced that the State Board of Transportation will be meeting in Flagstaff on June 13th in Flagstaff. Mr. Wessel added that the FMPO will be scaling down the State Board of Transportation Dinner for this year.

Mr. Ryan announced that the region will be hosting the Rural Transportation Summit next winter.

Mr. Gillick announced that Flagstaff and Sedona were coordinating with ADOT to conduct road maintenance on 89A. The switchbacks will be shut down to do road improvements from Memorial Day to July 4th, 2014. Mr. Avila elaborated that a project team has been meeting with the City of Sedona and the Chamber of Commerce to confirm and clarify the messaging and communication to the public about the businesses remaining open.

Ms. Evans announced that neither she nor Vice-Chair Woodson would be at the February 26th meeting. Ms. Evans asked the FMPO to provide a 1-page document with talking points for their trip to Washington D.C.

Mr. Gillick announced that there will be a bid opening for the pavement preservation project on 180 in February. The award anticipated in April with night work being conducted on 180 starting around mid-May. The project is limited to pavement preservation and the implementation of some new turn lanes on Ft. Valley Road.

TAC

February 6, 2014
Coconino County Human Resources Bldg

Executive Board

February 26, 2014
ADOT Conference Room
1801 S. Milton

ADJOURNMENT

Vice Chair Woodson adjourned the meeting at 10:02 a.m.