



**FLAGSTAFF METROPOLITAN
PLANNING ORGANIZATION**
CITY OF FLAGSTAFF ♦ COCONINO COUNTY ♦ ARIZONA DOT
211 West Aspen Avenue ♦ Flagstaff, Arizona 86001
Phone: (928) 213-2651
www.flagstaffmpo.org ♦ mpo@flagstaffaz.gov

Approved Minutes
Executive Board
8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m., Wednesday, February 26, 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.***

Chair Merrick called the meeting called to order at 8:04 a.m.

Roll Call:

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS

Audra Merrick, Chair (designated alternate for Hank Rogers), ADOT
Matt Ryan, Coconino County Board of Supervisors
Jeff Oravits, Flagstaff City Council (telephonic)
Art Babbott, Coconino County Board of Supervisors

FMPO STAFF

David Wessel, FMPO Manager
Sydney Francis, Administrative Specialist

Other:

Jeff Meilbeck, General Manager, NAIPTA
Erika Mazza, Planning Manager, NAIPTA
Dave Smith, NAIPTA
Dan Folke, Planning Director, City of Flagstaff

I. PRELIMINARY GENERAL BUSINESS
A. PUBLIC COMMENT

Dave Smith of NAIPTA gave an update and a power point presentation on bus stop improvements made using a grant from the FMPO and additional money (see the attachment added to the minutes for the full power point presentation). The focus of the improvements was on accessibility and mobility. One new feature that enhances the safety of the passengers are the infra-red motion detecting lights, which light up the stop at night.

There were many partners in the bus stop improvement project, including the FMPO, the City of Flagstaff, and homeowners and property owners who gifted the easements for the stops.

NAIPTA is receiving increasing amounts of positive feedback on the new bus stops, shelters, and the efficiencies of the logo stop.

Mr. Ryan commented that the shelters make a big difference for passenger in bad weather and also passengers who may need to sit.

Mr. Wessel added that the new stops enhance the presence of NAIPTA in the community.

Jeff Meilbeck of NAIPTA thanked the FMPO Executive Board for the \$125,000, which went to build the bus shelters. The shelters are in the ground providing service.

B. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Babbott announced that Representative Fan came to discuss long term funding for transportation to the County Board of Supervisors meeting. The State Representatives are working on gas tax, use tax, HURF funding restoration to develop long term solutions on transportation issues.

C. APPROVAL of MINUTES.

Board Action: Mr. Ryan moved to approve the minutes from Meeting January 22, 2014. Mr. Babbott seconded the motion. All were in favor of approving the minutes from January, 22, 2014.

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

1. Legislative and Regulatory Update and Review

Jeff Meilbeck, NAIPTA Manager, gave a power point presentation, "Reauthorization-Equity for All", regarding Federal Reauthorization and small urban related transit issues (see this attachment at the end of the minutes).

Mr. Ryan suggested to Mr. Meilbeck that he inform ADOT's lobbyists about this effort.

Mr. Babbott asked for clarification regarding bus transit trips. Mr. Meilbeck emphasized that buses move more than 50% of transit passengers; rail is more expensive than bus transit; that it is important to maintain bus funding, regardless of rail funding.

Mr. Wessel asked Mr. Meilbeck if he was looking to the FMPO to support a resolution. Mr. Meilbeck stated that he would send a resolution for the March meeting.

Mr. Ryan directed FMPO staff to put a letter together in support of NAIPTA's reauthorization efforts. Mr. Wessel agreed to put a letter together from FMPO Executive Board to Mr. Meilbeck and the NAIPTA Board Chair, Celia Barotz, City of Flagstaff Councilmember.

Mr. Wessel addressed the Board regarding pertinent Senate and House bills. Mr. Wessel brought the Board's attention to the RTAC information included in the agenda packet. Speaker Tobin is working on a bill on funding DPS, allowing HURF funding to be restored.

There was discussion only.

The Executive Board took a break at 8:46 a.m. Chair Merrick called the meeting back to order at 8:48 a.m.

Mr. Wessel continued the discussion on the regulatory update. MAP 21 is functional bill from a policy perspective. As reauthorization comes closer funding and redistribution becomes the focus. The

population threshold for MPO designation may be raised. Arizona is asking for opt-out provisions. Mr. Ryan added that Arizona is the only state asking for these opt-out provisions from MPO designation.

Mr. Wessel continued to state that transportation funding is the primary issue. Mr. Ryan stated that the County is looking at and working towards solutions for sustainable funding; and the County is working on getting traction for sustainable funding at the Federal level in order to access funds for the maintenance of the infrastructure. Mr. Wessel added that a small increase in funding could be helpful. Mr. Ryan concluded the discussion by saying that a 5 cent increase is needed to address maintaining the infrastructure. There was discussion only.

2. I-11 Feasibility Study Update

Mr. Wessel announced that he had a call into the Arizona Commerce Authority to learn the status of the economic impact study. A virtual comment period, regarding I-11, is open through February 28, 2014 and is available at http://i11study.com/wp/?page_id=819. Mr. Wessel gave some background on the Pima Association of Governments and the City of Tucson's resolution to support I-11. There is support and recognition for the need for improved connectivity in Tucson, as well as in the Phoenix area. There was discussion only.

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

3. Transportation Improvement Program Amendments

Mr. Wessel presented a request by ADOT and City staff to defer two projects to later years. The Pine Knoll FUTS will be deferred for construction to FY 15. The Fourth Street Bridge FUTS trails deferred for design to FY 15 and construction to FY 17. Early notification to ADOT of this situation will allow them to make adjustments to the overall program within the State.

Board Action: Mr. Ryan moved to approve the above TIP amendments. Mr. Babbott seconded the motion. All were in Favor.

4. FY 2014 Unified Planning Work Program Amendment

Mr. Wessel requested an amendment to the FY 14 Work Program to accommodate Dark Skies related LED lighting conference and research. \$25,000-\$35,000 of these funds would go to underwriting the Dark Skies conference held in Flagstaff in August of 2014. The research from the LED project would be presented at the conference. This aligns with the TIP amendment approved by the Board where \$137,000 in the LED light program was retained for these purposes.

Mr. Babbott stated that he appreciated FMPO staff efforts on the behalf of the partnership between the City and the astronomical community and that he would like to see the LED research efforts move forward. Mr. Babbott expressed reservations about \$25,000 to \$35,000 in funds going to underwrite a conference, as opposed to going to the actual research efforts. Mr. Wessel replied that the City has reason to believe that underwriting the conference will help with the ongoing discussion between the City and the astronomical community and will allow the City to participate in the creation of the agenda and the attendance for the conference.

Mr. Ryan expressed support in getting the LED research project to move forward.

Board Action: Mr. Babbott moved to approve an amendment made to the FY14 UPWP to include the Dark Skies conference as part of the LED research project. Mr. Ryan seconded the motion. All were in favor.

5. FMPO Retreat Review

Mr. Wessel gave an overview the Facilitator's report from the Executive Board Retreat and asked the Board to provide an initial organizational response to improving the mission and vision statements for the FMPO. Mr. Wessel asked the board to consider clarifying the FMPO's mission and vision to be in alignment with the FMPO's mandate, but also representative of the necessary roles the MPO plays within the region.

Chair Merrick asked if the Cheyenne MPO conducted development reviews. Mr. Wessel replied that there were staff members conducting development reviews for the city. Mr. Babbott asked what that the last set of development plans the FMPO weighed in on. Mr. Wessel stated that the FMPO has recently provided assistance on Little America, Canyon Del Rio, Juniper Point, the traffic interchange at I-40 and Butler, and in traffic modeling and analysis. Mr. Babbott asked FMPO staff to continue to inform the Executive Board on development plans that the FMPO is involved with.

Mr. Wessel continued to review the facilitator's report from the FMPO retreat and discussed transportation related tasks that the FMPO could be involved with. Mr. Wessel asked the Board to provide some feedback on the FMPO's role, mission and vision.

Chair Merrick asked for clarification on the FMPO's role in educating the public. Mr. Wessel replied the FMPO can educate the public about transportation funding issues as well as transportation needs. Chair Merrick asked if the FMPO was pursuing other grant opportunities. Mr. Wessel replied that grants need to be scrutinized against the mission.

Mr. Babbott stated that he thought the current mission and vision statements for the FMPO needed further discussion and refinement; they need to address and reflect the purpose and mandates of the FMPO. Mr. Babbott also stated that he would like the FMPO to help the City and County coordinate funding more efficiently by providing communication about their respective projects. Mr. Babbott would like the FMPO to take advantage of any opportunities combine funds for regional transportation improvements in order to leverage limited funding in a strategic way. Ms. Merrick added that the FMPO and ADOT did that to a limited extent using District Minor money. Mr. Wessel stated that CYMPO gives their funding to the State to leverage funding for projects better. Mr. Babbott elaborated that there were some opportunities for the FMPO to promote communication and collaboration in the recent Regional Plan discussion, before it was discussed in a political forum. Mr. Oravits agreed with Mr. Babbott and emphasized the FMPO's role in providing communication between the agencies and making the discussion easier.

Mr. Ryan asked if the TIP projects went through a ranking process. Mr. Wessel replied that the RTP projects were ranked against specific criteria and a scoring process and for the current RTP update improvements are being made to this process. Mr. Ryan added that he would like to make recommendations that benefit the transportation system as a whole, based on clearly defined criteria and an objective system looking at transportation elements.

Mr. Wessel confirmed what the Executive Board was sharing. He stated that the FMPO would look for opportunities to effect regional transportation positively using limited fiscal resources.

Mr. Babbott asked if small amounts of funds from the corresponding agencies have a benefit to a "pinch point" in the transportation system. Mr. Wessel replied that adding Capital related projects to a pavement preservation project adds time to the project process, so that these kinds of coordination efforts would have to be planned and prepared in advance. Chair Merrick added that the 5 year plan was available and to take advantage of improvements would have to be done very early in the process. She added that when you add features, you add length to the project. For this kind of coordination, funding will have to move with the projects.

There was discussion only.

6. FMPO Working Calendar

Mr. Wessel gave a brief overview of the FMPO working calendar included with the packet. The Arizona State Transportation Board will be coming to Flagstaff on May 9th. The FMPO is coordinating a small dinner for the Board. 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 about the Regional Freight Policy project. Mr. Wessel provided background and an update. There is \$35,000 in the work program for the FMPO to help coordinate toward the end of a regional freight shipper's association. Mr. Wessel met with a roundtable group through the Chamber of Commerce and there was support for moving slowly toward regional freight policy. The shipper's expressed an interest in logistics training. Mr. Wessel added there is an opportunity to incorporating Freight Policy into the RTP update.

The Board reintroduced the idea of moving the meeting time to a different day or a different time. 9 a.m. is better for Mr. Oravits and Mr. Ryan. A meeting time change will be presented to the full Executive Board.

There was discussion only.

IV. CONCLUDING GENERAL BUSINESS

A. REPORTS

- 1) Technical Advisory Committee
- 2) Staff Report

B. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Merrick announced that JW Powell opened and lowest bid was rejected. ADOT is looking at second lowest bidder. The highway180/Snowbowl project opens March 7th.

TAC

March 6, 2014
Coconino County Human Resources Bldg

Executive Board

March 26, 2014
ADOT Conference Room
1801 S. Milton

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Merrick adjourned the meeting 9:50 a.m.