



**FLAGSTAFF METROPOLITAN  
PLANNING ORGANIZATION**  
CITY OF FLAGSTAFF ♦ COCONINO COUNTY ♦ ARIZONA DOT  
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***Approved Minutes***  
***Special Executive Board***  
**1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m., Monday, May 12, 2014**

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Flagstaff City Staff Conference Room  
211 W. Aspen Avenue, 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 1:10 p.m.

**Present:**

**EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS**

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

**FMPO STAFF**

David Wessel, FMPO Manager  
Sydney Francis, Administrative Specialist

**OTHER**

Kevin Adam, RTAC Director (telephonic)

**I. PRELIMINARY GENERAL BUSINESS**

**A. PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

**B. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Mr. Wessel suggested that the agenda be re-arranged to cover the action items first to accommodate the Board Members calling in by phone.

*The Action Summary and corresponding agenda items appear in the order they were discussed at the meeting.*

**C. APPROVAL of MINUTES.**

Meeting March 26, 2014

**Board Action:** Mr. Babbott moved to approve the minutes from Meeting March 26, 2014. Mr. Ryan seconded. All were in favor.

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

### **1. FY 14-17 Transportation Improvement Program Amendments**

Mr. Wessel sought input and action on an amendment to enhancement project f71202 the Westside Pedestrian-Bicycle Underpass of the BNSF railroad at Florence. The project is now scheduled for obligation in FY13 (already passed) and must be cancelled or deferred. The project is experiencing higher than expected costs for the BNSF bridge. Current funding is \$528,000 federal and \$300,000 local. Mr. Wessel suggested that the project be deferred to FY17. The project faces a \$900,000 gap in funds between the City estimate and BNSF's estimate. Local money or Federal money could be brought to bear on the situation, but Federal enhancement monies would Federalize the project.

Mr. Wessel presented changes to the obligation authority rate from 95.5 to 94.9 and the implications for the TIP. Essentially, for every 100,000 in federal allocation there will \$600 less the MPO is authorized to spend (\$6,000 for every \$1,000,000). Mr. Wessel recommended that member agencies plan on raising local match expectations as there are no additional federal funds to make up the difference.

**Board Action:** Mr. Ryan moved to approve the FY14-17 TIP amendments, including deferring project f71202 to FY17 and changing the obligation authority rate in the TIP, such that the locals match the difference in funds. Ms. Merrick seconded the motion. All were in favor of approving the FY14-17 TIP amendments.

### **2. FY 2015 Unified Planning Work Program**

Mr. Wessel presented the draft work program and recommended adoption to the Executive Board. Major work program elements are carried forward from FY14 include the Regional Transportation Plan technical update, Milton Road Operations Analysis and the Regional Freight Strategy. New elements include RTP Public Outreach (\$41,000), expanded training (\$5000) and limited data collection (\$6,000). Potential work program elements pending notice of grant awards include staff support for a Milton Road Corridor Study (City of Flagstaff \$250,000 PARA grant) and staff support for a Bus Rapid Transit cross town spine route study (NAIPTA \$300,000 5304 grant request).

**Board Action:** Mr. Babbott moved to adopt the FY15 UPWP. Mr. Ryan seconded the motion. All were in favor of adopting the FY15 UPWP.

The quorum was broken at 1:21 p.m. when connection to Mr. Ryan was lost. Quorum was restored at 1:23 p.m.

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

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

Mr. Adam reported on the Arizona State budget and the changes in transportation funding that were adopted by the legislators. HURF transfers were reduced from \$226 million to \$81 million. But the budget was handled in a manner that was deceptive. The final bill took existing money and redistributed it. \$33 million in local money was raided and, ultimately, more money was taken from the locals. The funds did not come from new money for transportation, but rather funding was taken from ADOT. ADOT lost \$44 million and the locals lost \$33 million.

Mr. Adam also reported on the Federal Highway Trust fund and the pending reauthorization for transportation. Currently the Highway Trust Fund is spending \$54 billion per year and is taking in \$35 billion per year. The fund is anticipated to be insolvent in August. The Highway Trust Fund is required to keep a \$4 billion balance. The only practical way to address the insolvency is for money to come

from the general fund. MAP 21 expires in September. Legislation involving the trust fund has to happen before reauthorization. The Senate Public Works Committee made a draft bill available on May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2014, for a committee hearing, which includes very little policy change from MAP 21. If this bill passes the committee hearing it will go to the Senate Finance Committee, where the real work on funding the bill will be done. \$18 billion additional dollars are needed to keep the funding constant.

Mr. Ryan asked if President Obama had presented a bill. Mr. Adam replied that the President did release a bill on his own, a 4-year bill for \$302 billion, including a \$20 billion a year increase. Mr. Wessel added that there is no definitive discussion on how to deal with the funding. Restructuring corporate taxes is being discussed. Vice-chair Woodson agreed.

Mr. Wessel summarized information provided by ADOT on the status of the Federal Highway Trust Fund. When the Highway Trust Fund reaches the \$4 billion threshold, funding is monitored very carefully and the reimbursement process is slowed. Mr. Wessel anticipated very little impact on the state. FY14 funds are already obligated and will be repaid. But the rate of repayment is uncertain. For FY15 and beyond a 35% cut to MPOs might be implemented, which the FMPO can sustain by cutting travel, training, and interns.

Mr. Wessel presented a draft letter to the congressional delegation reiterating concern for funding impacts to the MPO and the projects under design. Mr. Babbott stated that he approved of the letter and suggested a copy go to Joanne Kies at the County. Vice-Chair Woodson stated that he had a minor change which he would discuss directly with Mr. Wessel. Mr. Ryan suggested that an additional point be added about the region working to address its local needs with the current tax elections, but Federal support is needed to fortify infrastructure.

**Board Action:** Mr. Ryan moved to approve the letter to the delegation, including suggested changes and Vice-Chair Woodson's signature. Mr. Babbott seconded the motion. All were in favor.

## **2. I-11 Feasibility Study Update**

Mr. Wessel provided a brief update on the I-11 Feasibility Study and the Executive Board's work to express the region's disappointment in not being examined in the economic impact study by the Arizona Commerce Authority. The Greater Arizona Mayor's Association is holding a meeting on Friday, May 16<sup>th</sup>, 2014 to receive an I-11 update. Ms. Evan's will be participating and expressing the FMPO's position on the Economic Impact Study. A letter was sent to Director Halikowski and a copy delivered to ADOT staff on Friday, May 9<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Babbott commented that he attended a NACOG economic development committee meeting and expressed the position that ADOT and the Economic Impact Study did not give sufficient consideration to the losers in the I-11 corridor.

Mr. Adam commented that there will be one last I-11 public stakeholders meeting to be held concurrently in Arizona and Nevada at 10 a.m. on May 21<sup>st</sup>, 2014. Mr. Wessel added that he will send the invitation to the Executive Board. Mr. Babbott asked for coordination. Mr. Wessel replied that he would provide talking points. Mr. Woodson requested that written comment, like the letter to Director Halikowski, be submitted for the public comment file.

There was discussion only.

## **3. FMPO Retreat Review/Vision and Mission work**

Mr. Wessel reviewed the information in the agenda packet to continue the discussion from last month on new vision and mission direction for the organization based on last fall's retreat. Mr. Wessel provided benchmark communities for which to compare with FMPO. Mr. Wessel took the vision, mission, and goal statements from the benchmark communities and included them in the packet.

Vice-Chair Woodson asked what is the specific background and verbiage that defines the MPO under statute. Mr. Woodson would like the FMPO's mission and vision to be focused on and narrowed to its Federal mandate. Mr. Wessel agreed to provide the actual language. Mr. Ryan agreed with aligning to the Federal mandate and added that he would like to have a clear FMPO vision and mission statement to clarify his role as a Board member.

Mr. Woodson asked when the Executive Board will have sufficient time to work on this mission and vision statement. Mr. Wessel replied that the Board will keep working on it at the monthly meetings and then complete the take at the Executive Board retreat in the Fall 2014.

There was discussion only.

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

##### **3. Regional Transportation Plan Technical Update**

Mr. Wessel provided an update to the Board on the project status. Mr. Wessel stated that he and the consultants are working on a tool to successfully compare smaller and larger projects, using the same measures, but weighting them differently based on scale. Mr. Babbott stated that he appreciated Mr. Wessel's work on this and that he appreciates seeing the capacity meet the need more efficiently. Mr. Wessel anticipated having projects to score in June, July and August.

There was discussion only.

##### **4. FMPO Working Calendar**

Mr. Wessel gave an overview of the FMPO working calendar, including the adoption of the FY15-19 TIP in June, the Dark Skies Summit, Fall Retreat, and the 2015 Rural Transportation Summit. There was discussion only.

#### **V. CONCLUDING GENERAL BUSINESS**

##### **A. REPORTS**

1) [Technical Advisory Committee](#)

2) [Staff Report](#)

No discussion.

##### **B. ANNOUNCEMENTS**

TAC

June 5, 2014

Coconino County Human Resources Bldg

Executive Board

June 25, 2014

ADOT Conference Room, 1801 S. Milton

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Vice-Chair Woodson adjourned the meeting at 2:04 p.m.