



FLAGSTAFF METROPOLITAN
PLANNING ORGANIZATION
CITY OF FLAGSTAFF ♦ COCONINO COUNTY ♦ ARIZONA DOT
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Approved Minutes
Executive Board
8:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m., Wednesday, June 25, 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 8:34 a.m.

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBERS

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

FMPO STAFF

David Wessel, FMPO Manager
Sydney Francis, Administrative Specialist

OTHER ATTENDEES

Dan Folke, Planning Director, City of Flagstaff

I. PRELIMINARY GENERAL BUSINESS

A. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

B. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Wessel suggested that the action items in "New Business" be addressed first by the Executive Board, due to time constraints.

C. APPROVAL of MINUTES.

Meeting May 12, 2014

Mr. Woodson pointed out a correction in the Minutes from May 12, 2014 to change "FY" to "FY17" on page 2 of the minutes.

Board Action: Mr. Babbott moved to approve the minutes with the corrections. Ms. Merrick seconded the motion. All were in favor of approving the May 12, 2014 minutes with the corrections.

Vice-Chair Woodson convened the Executive Session at 8:36 a.m.

II. EXECUTIVE SESSION

1. FMPO Manager Annual Personnel Review

A City of Flagstaff liaison was available to present the evaluation.

Vice-Chair Woodson resumed the Executive Board meeting at 9:02 a.m.

The following Minutes reflect the order the agenda items were addressed in the Executive Board meeting.

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

1. FY 2015-2019 Transportation Improvement Program Adoption

Mr. Wessel sought Board approval of the FY 15-19 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The TAC recommended adoption on June 5, 2014. No projects were submitted during the call for projects and no comments received during the public comment period. On June 24, 2014, the FMPO received awards for the 5310 program, changes for which will be added to the current FY15-19 TIP.

Mr. Wessel announced that one of the roles he has taken on is working with other MPO and COG planners to work through the issues on the 5310 program. One of the issues is that the locals have very specific criteria when to rank projects for the 5310 grant awards, but the ADOT award process does not always seem reflective of the local input and ranking. Mr. Wessel is working with ADOT to come to a mutual understanding of the 5310 award process.

Board Action: Mr. Babbott moved to adopt the FY15-19 TIP with the changes. Ms. Evans seconded the motion. All were in favor of adopting the FY15-19 TIP with the changes.

2. Coordination Plan Update

Mr. Wessel presented the proposed amendments to the FMPO Coordinated Public Transit - Human Services Transportation Plan and sought adoption of the amendments by the Executive Board. Mr. Wessel summarized the key points of the 5310 program and proposed amendments of the Coordination Plan on pages 21 and 22 in the staff summary of the agenda packet. Included with this plan are the applications for grant funds by service providers.

Vice-chair Woodson asked about the priority regarding the Huntington/Industrial shuttle service. Mr. Wessel explained that there is a gap in the Huntington/Industrial neighborhood regarding the mobility needs of the elderly and disabled because of where the Mountain Line has bus routes end and the services provided by various organizations in the Huntington/Industrial neighborhood, such as the Guidance Center. Mr. Babbott stated that he attended the NAIPTA board meeting regarding this issue and why, for many reasons, NAIPTA should not extend bus service into this area. Mr. Babbott reported that NAIPTA Director, Jeff Meilbeck, would explore the options regarding un-used van equipment that could be passed on the service providers to address this gap. Mr. Babbott added that the community is looking for a solution driven by the service providers.

Vice-chair Woodson asked how pedestrian and sidewalk improvements fit into the 5310 program plan. Mr. Wessel replied that many of these pedestrian and sidewalk improvements are needed for bus stop, transit and mobility access. Vice-chair Woodson added that he is seeking solutions with other City Council members to find funding to improve sidewalks and decrease sidewalk gaps. Gaps in the pedestrian transportation system inhibit people's mobility. Mr. Wessel replied that he is looking for ways to determine how the City can amortize the pedestrian infrastructure.

Chair Merrick asked about priority #1, regarding the need for a Mobility Management position. She asked if it NAIPTA would always be the mobility manager and if this will always be a priority in the Coordinated plan. Mr. Wessel replied not necessarily. It seems counter-intuitive to take money away from services in favor of a position; however, based on compelling testimonials from WACOG, SEGO and other organizations a lot of mobility operations run on very limited budgets, for which it is difficult to write grants and comply with grants. The mobility manager position is where the expertise and continuity is housed; without the mobility managers many programs would have lost funding and fallen out of compliance. The current challenge is that that mobility manager positions are competitive. The MPOs and COGs are working with ADOT to get the funding stabilized. Regarding how the mobility manager position fits within an intergovernmental organization: MPOs do not usually conduct operations; COGs are involved in operations; NAIPTA is a good fit to house the mobility manager position because NAIPTA runs the ADA service and Mountain Lift already. Ms. Merrick added that the position and hosting organization could change annually. Mr. Wessel replied he is working to use flex money in the TIP to make the position permanent with a stable funding source.

Board Action: Ms. Merrick moved to approve the amendments to the FMPO Coordinated Public Transit - Human Services Transportation Plan. Ms. Evans seconded the motion. All were in favor.

3. Federal Aid Functional Classification System and National Highway System Changes

Mr. Wessel presented recommended changes to these classification systems in response to the MAP-21 designation of all principal arterials as part of the National Highway System. In the region, these changes only impact state highways. The TAC recommended taking no position as the ultimate action belongs to ADOT.

Mr. Wessel summarized the purpose and background of the National Highway System. The FMPO recommends pulling off the excess roads that are currently part of the NHS. Mr. Wessel added that if designated NHS roads include more responsibilities, standards and requirements.

Mr. Babbott addressed Chair Merrick and asked the following: "what are the general views of this NHS overlay?" Chair Merrick replied that if there are roads that should not be in the NHS system, they need to be addressed now. Mr. Wessel added that the FMPO recommends pulling all the roads from the NHS with the exception of Country Club and 89.

Vice-chair Woodson asked if these changes would affect the funding of these roads. Chair Merrick replied no funding that she knows of will be affected. She added that the region will not be losing potential funding.

Mr. Babbott asked if the Executive Board would benefit from having a written overview of these changes to the NHS system. Chair Merrick replied that she had a power point with this information that she would share with the Executive Board, as needed.

Mr. Wessel concluded the discussion by stating that some functional classification changes would need to be made to US 180, but that he would submit the requisite paperwork.

Board Action: Mr. Babbott moved to approve the FMPO's recommendations to ADOT. Ms. Merrick seconded the motion. All were in favor.

4. ADOT Priority Projects for FMPO Region and Advocacy Strategies

Mr. Wessel presented opportunities for identifying priority ADOT projects in the region for which the partnerships or advocacy might be pursued. Mr. Wessel gave an overview of potential projects such as transit service to Snowbowl and the 4th St. Bridge over I-40, which the ADOT needs lengthened and the City needs widened.

Vice-Chair Woodson stated that regarding projects like the 4th Street Bridge, the dialog needs to start now because improvements could be 10 years in the making.

Chair Merrick stated the region is competing on a statewide basis. Chair Merrick has observed that when locals bring money to the table for a project, ADOT is more likely to bring money to the table. These types of partnerships gravitate funding and projects moving forward.

Mr. Wessel suggested to the Board that with limited funding, the FMPO and the Board need to start defining these priority projects.

Ms. Evans stated that there needs to be a breaking point. The FMPO and the City in particular needs to be realistic about what funding can be brought to the table; half the funding may not be possible.

Mr. Babbott stated that it is not just about partnering with the governmental agencies, but also looking at partnering with the developers is necessary.

Ms. Evans stated that the developers are resistant to funding a project where a problem already exists, such as the 4th Street bridge; it is difficult to assess money for an existing problem.

Vice-chair Woodson added that there are huge pots of money some issues can be chipped away at, such as smaller improvement projects. He added that the Board needs to be mindful about the difference between which projects should be partnered with and which projects the City can accomplish on their own and what role the FMPO plays.

Mr. Wessel stated that on page 34 of the agenda packet includes the factors for prioritizing projects, regarding the resources and fiscal realities.

Vice-Chair Woodson added that the number of partners needs to be included. Private developments are important partners. Mr. Wessel replied that private developments add complications and resources.

Mr. Wessel asked the Board to consider the list of projects and start considering their prioritization. He also asked the Board to consider how to determine partnership priorities and long range strategies in order to advance long term projects.

There was discussion only.

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

1. Legislative and Regulatory Update and Review

Mr. Wessel briefly presented a legislative update. The Highway Trust Fund is insolvent. Mr. Wessel gave background on the sales tax revenues generated from the sales of trucks and how it could be used toward this shortfall. There is currently a bill in the U.S. Senate to raise the Federal gas tax by six cents and index it to inflation. There was discussion only.

2. I-11 Feasibility Study Update

Mr. Wessel gave a draft of I-11 talking points to the Board and presented on current information regarding I-11. ADOT is in the process of addressing the FMPO region's and the Executive Board's concerns, regarding the value of looking at the losers to the total state on behalf of I-11.

Chair Merrick stated that I-11 is a proposed new funding source. Mr. Wessel added that there is resistance to new funding and that 93 will get most of the impact.

Ms. Evans asked if the talking points were considered a "public document". She suggested that some of the talking points be re-phrased. For example, a reduction of truck traffic through Flagstaff is not necessarily a benefit to small hotels and restaurant owners whose businesses rely on this traffic.

Vice-chair Woodson asked if the Board would like to make this document a public document by submitting comments and suggestions to Mr. Wessel and then voting on it. Mr. Wessel added that he could accommodate a quick phone call, since the next Executive Board meeting is in August.

Ms. Evans stated that this is valuable information as a City Council member, especially to share with stakeholders and local business owners.

There was discussion only.

3. FMPO Retreat Review/Vision and Mission work

Mr. Wessel presented updated information to continue the discussion from last month on new vision and mission direction for the organization based on last fall's retreat. Included in the agenda packet is the mandate information for MPOs. Vice-chair Woodson stated that he would like to see the Federal mandate for MPOs serve as the core values for the vision and mission work. Mr. Wessel replied that the Executive Board retreat is most likely scheduled for October and he will work to get a facilitator for the retreat.

There was discussion only.

V. NEW BUSINESS (Continued)

5. Regional Transportation Plan Technical Update

No discussion.

6. FMPO Working Calendar

Mr. Wessel gave the dates for the next Executive Board meeting, scheduled for August 27th, and informed the Board about the 2015 Rural Transportation Summit.

VI. CONCLUDING GENERAL BUSINESS

A. REPORTS

- 1) Technical Advisory Committee
- 2) Staff Report

B. ANNOUNCEMENTS

(Informal Announcements, Future Agenda Items, and Next Meeting Date)

TAC

August 7, 2014

Coconino County Human Resources Bldg

Executive Board

August 27, 2014

ADOT Conference Room, 1801 S. Milton

ADJOURNMENT

Vice-Chair Woodson adjourned the meeting at 10:05 a.m.

The Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) includes Northern Arizona Intergovernmental Public Transportation Authority final program of projects for section 5307 and 5339 funding under the Federal Transit Administration, unless amended. Public notice for the TIP also satisfies FTA public notice requirements for the final program of projects.