



FLAGSTAFF METROPOLITAN
PLANNING ORGANIZATION
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APPROVED MINUTES
FMPO Technical Advisory Committee Meeting
1:00pm to 3:00pm
September 25, 2019

City of Flagstaff Staff Conference Room
211 W. Aspen Avenue, Flagstaff, AZ 86001

NOTICE OF OPTION TO RECESS INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION

Pursuant to A.R.S. §38-431.02, notice is hereby given to the members of the FMPO TAC and to the general public that, at this regular meeting, the FMPO TAC may vote to go into executive session, which will not be open to the public, for legal advice and discussion with the FMPO TAC's attorneys for legal advice on any item listed on the following agenda, pursuant to A.R.S. §38-431.03(A).

TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

- Anne Dunno, Chair, NAIPTA Capital Program Manager
- Nate Reisner, Vice Chair, ADOT North Central District Development Engineer (for Audra Merrick, ADOT Flagstaff District Engineer)
- John Wennes, ADOT Transportation Planner
- Rick Barrett, City of Flagstaff Engineer
- Jay Christelman, Coconino County Development Services Director
- Dan Folke, City of Flagstaff Community Development Director
- Nick Hall (joined at 1:25) for Christopher Tressler, Coconino County Engineer (for Lucinda Andreani, Public Works Director)
- Jeff Bauman, City of Flagstaff Transportation Manager
- Andrew Iacona, Northern Arizona University Project Manager II

FMPO STAFF

- Jeff Meilbeck, Executive Director
- David Wessel, FMPO Manager
- Martin Ince, Multimodal Planner

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE: Greg Mace (NAU), Steve Vedral (NAU), Shane Dille (City of Flagstaff)

I. PRELIMINARY GENERAL BUSINESS

A. CALL TO ORDER – The meeting was called to order at 1:05 p.m.

B. ROLL CALL - See above, page 1

C. PUBLIC COMMENT – NONE

D. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- Minutes of Regular Meeting: August 28th, 2019

Motion to approve by Jeff Bauman. Second by John Wennes. Unanimous.

MOTION: Committee member Jeff Bauman moved to approve the August 28th, 2018 Technical Advisory Committee meeting minutes without edits. Committee member John Wennes seconded. The motion was passed unanimously.

E. ANNOUNCEMENTS

(Reconsiderations, changes to the agenda and other preliminary announcements)

- Mr. Meilbeck - Angela Robbins is now a full-time employee with the City. Rosie Wear will start in the new fulltime FMPO Specialist position on Monday.
- Chair Dunno announced award of a grant to NAIPTA for a Mountain Line Campus Master and another for design of the NAU bus storage.
- Mr. Meilbeck – Note that we are now following the packet protocol approved last month.

II. GENERAL BUSINESS

A. McConnell Multimodal Improvement Project

FMPO Staff: Jeff Meilbeck, Executive Director

Recommendation: No recommendation is being made. Staff from Mountain Line and NAU will present the project and may ask for support from the FMPO.

Chair Dunno and member Andrew Iacona presented as co Project Managers. A Powerpoint was provided. This location is the highest priority south campus project identified in a 2017 multimodal assessment. There are no sidewalks present and growing pedestrian traffic. Hazards to pedestrians on south side from I-17 ramps. Room is lacking between the roadway and wash. A detailed feasibility study was done in partnership with NAIPTA and is hoped to create potential for leveraging support from

multiple partners. The project is needed to improve access to NAU and the southern community, better accommodate the 3-minute transit service at the SBS building, and minimize confusion created by large mix of modes. The feasibility study is a good concept to build on that will meet goals of several agencies. Goals: Pedestrian Safety; Multimodal improvements; transit system improvements including greater bus queuing, more efficient intersection operations (avoid need for flaggers). A 2013 study recommended a roundabout over signal and recommended implementation by 2020. The final solution is a hybrid of seven alternatives. The team recognizes that further review of off campus impacts of the final alternative is needed. The presenters stated that many regional plan goals and these objectives from other agencies will be met: NAU – student safety, eliminate need for flagger; City & County – supports increasing densities that are accessed through this intersection and improves FUTS connections; NAIPTA – safety and efficiency of bus circulation and improved pedestrian and bicycle access to transit; ADOT – reduced risk associated with backups onto I-17.

NAIPTA and NAU are looking to FMPO to convene a conversation to coordinate resources from multiple agencies. Design costs are estimated at \$1,000,000 with \$400,000 in hand and construction costs at \$7,500,000. The FMPO is seen as the best group of experts to bring the project to fruition, gain traction for funding, and perhaps FMPO help agencies reorganize or reprioritize their respective capital improvement programs.

Mr. Meilbeck reiterated that the FMPO can be a forum for discussion. FMPO can support projects, write grants, and provide a forum and has no money programmed for the project. He asked if there is an objection to the project? Mr. Reisner: good project, need to know about impacts to ADOT ramp operations. Mr. Bauman: concurs with ADOT and does not have concerns about Beulah/McConnell intersection, an issue that has been raised. He would like the value to the City to be further evaluated, including possible increases in cut-through traffic at this intersection. Mr. Ince: concurs with ADOT and City, expressed concern about long-term roundabout benefits (i.e., grade separation), and believes the bike lane on the south side is too out of direction and would also like to keep the sidewalk on the south side open for evaluation as this is a very high pedestrian location. Mr. Vedral: need to evaluate the impacts of potential bus storage facility and future arena in this proximity.

Mr. Meilbeck recommended that the technical issues be resolved and presented to the TAC before this goes to the Board. The TAC generally concurred that \$400,000 could answer these fatal flaw questions.

Mr. Vedral and Mr. Mace left the meeting.

B. Strategic Advance

FMPO Staff: Jeff Meilbeck, Executive Director

Recommendation: Staff recommends the TAC discuss and approve an approach and timing for an annual FMPO Strategic Advance.

Mr. Meilbeck reviewed the retreat logistics and agenda. Schedule: December or as late as February on a regular Board meeting date. Preceded by stakeholder interviews. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at an offsite location. Facilitated by staff. Working lunch. Outcomes: Adopt strategic work plan. Review mission and vision. Set 5-year horizon. Identify measurable 18-month tasks.

General support for the concept was voiced by all members of the TAC.

C. Transition to Metroplan Identity Update

FMPO Staff: Jeff Meilbeck, Executive Director

Recommendation: None

Mr. Meilbeck updated the group on the new webpage, letterhead, PowerPoint template, business card and schedule. Credited to City Convention and Visitors Bureau staff.

D. NAIPTA on FMPO Executive Board

FMPO Staff: Jeff Meilbeck, Executive Director

Recommendation: Staff recommends consideration of NAIPTA's request to be added to the FMPO Executive Board

Mr. Meilbeck gave a general overview: Board increases from six to seven members with four members required for quorum; strong belief that we need legal opinion on the implications for the governor's MPO designation document that does not identify NAIPTA and the risks involved; the Master IGA between the City and County and the operating procedures need updating.

Mr. Meilbeck asked if it is appropriate to have a non-FMPO council member from NAIPTA serve on the FMPO Board with three other council members already serving on the FMPO Board (similar issue with County Board of Supervisors). This creates a quorum of the Council. Concerns were raised that the City as a single member could represent a quorum in a regional organization. The example of the Plaza Way \$114,000 was raised where a quorum of the Council may recommend to the full Council that an action be taken. Legal guidance on that issue may be needed.

E. Items from the Executive Director

- a. Review of Draft Executive Board Agenda (attached)

Executive Board agenda was reviewed and changes from the TAC packet draft Board agenda explained.

F. Future Agenda Items

FMPO Staff: Jeff Meilbeck, Executive Director

Recommendation: Discuss items for future FMPO agendas.

NONE

III. CLOSING BUSINESS

A. ITEMS FROM THE TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEMEBERS

(Committee members may make general announcements, raise items of concern or report on current topics of interest to the committee. Items are not on the agenda, so discussion is limited and action not allowed.)

Pedestrian Safety Workshop – October 7 & 8 at the County King Street facility. Contact Jeff King at FHWA.

Agenda items: population and employment estimate methodologies in October or November.

B. ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 2:39 PM.

The Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) includes Northern Arizona Intergovernmental Public Transportation Authority final program of projects for Sections 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.