

1                   **MESILLA VALLEY METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION**  
2                   **TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

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4   The following are minutes for the meeting of the Technical Advisory Committee of the  
5   Mesilla Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) which was held January 7,  
6   2016 at 4:00 p.m. in Commission Chambers at Dona Ana County Government Building,  
7   845 Motel Blvd., Las Cruces, New Mexico.

8  
9   **MEMBERS PRESENT:**     John Gwynne (DAC Flood Commission)  
10                             Mike Bartholomew (CLC Transit)  
11                             Bill Childress (BLM) (arrived 4:06)  
12                             Larry Shannon (Town of Mesilla)  
13                             Harold Love (NMDOT) (arrived 4:05)  
14                             Jolene Herrera (NMDOT)  
15                             Dale Harrell (NMSU)  
16                             Debbi Lujan (Town of Mesilla)  
17                             Willie Roman (CLC Transportation)  
18                             Rene Molina (DAC Engineering)  
19                             Stephen Howie (EBID)  
20                             David Armijo (SCRTD)  
21                             Todd Gregory (LCPS)  
22                             Tony Trevino (CLC Public Works)  
23                             Soogyu Lee (CLC)

24  
25   **STAFF PRESENT:**       Tom Murphy (MPO Staff)  
26                             Andrew Wray (MPO Staff)  
27                             Michael McAdams (MPO Staff)

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29   **OTHERS PRESENT:**     Becky Baum, RC Creations, LLC, Recording Secretary

30  
31   **1.     CALL TO ORDER (4:00 p.m.)**

32  
33   Bartholomew: Okay I'll go ahead and call to order the, the, the meeting for the Mesilla  
34   Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization Technical Advisory Committee  
35   of January 7th, 2016. I will start by having everybody introduce  
36   themselves for the record and also as we have discussions throughout the  
37   meeting if you could state your name for the record so the recorder knows  
38   who makes whatever statements and motions. So I'll start on my far right  
39   down there.

40  
41   Howie:           Stephen Howie, Elephant Butte Irrigation District.

42  
43   Harrell:         Dale Harrell, New Mexico State University.

44  
45   Gwynne:         John Gwynne, Dona Ana County Flood Commission.  
46

1 Molina: Rene Molina, Dona Ana County Engineering.  
2  
3 Bartholomew: Mike Bartholomew, City of Las Cruces RoadRUNNER Transit.  
4  
5 Herrera: Jolene Herrera, NMDOT Planning.  
6  
7 Trevino: Tony Trevino, City of Las Cruces Public Works.  
8  
9 Lee: Soogyu Lee with City of Las Cruces.  
10  
11 Gregory: Todd Gregory, Las Cruces Public Schools.  
12  
13 Shannon: Larry Shannon, Town of Mesilla.  
14  
15 Lujan: Debbi Lujan, Town of Mesilla.  
16  
17 Bartholomew: Okay. Thank you and there is a, a sign-up list for all being passed  
18 around here so if you haven't signed it well pass it down. Oh we have one  
19 more joining us as well. Oh, okay. Soo's sitting in for you, Soo, Soogyu.  
20 Okay.

21  
22 **2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

23  
24 Bartholomew: The first item is the Approval of the Agenda. Is there any changes to the  
25 agenda, miss ...

26  
27 Murphy: No.

28  
29 Bartholomew: Do I have a motion to approve the agenda?

30  
31 Herrera: Move to approve.

32  
33 Lujan: Second.

34  
35 Bartholomew: Okay it's been moved and seconded. All in favor approving the agenda  
36 please say "aye."

37  
38 MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY.

39  
40 Bartholomew: Opposed?

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44  
45 **3. ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

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1 Bartholomew: Next item is the Election of Officers, one of my favorite things, maybe to  
2 get out of being Chair again for another year. But I would encourage  
3 anybody who'd be interested in chairing this group. I, I can attest that the  
4 MPO does an excellent job of organizing and it's really not too bad to be  
5 Chair of this group and, and conduct it. And you need a Chair and a Vice-  
6 Chair, correct?  
7  
8 Murphy: That's correct.  
9  
10 Bartholomew: So is there any nominations for Chair for 2016? Nobody wants to be first,  
11 right?  
12  
13 Herrera: Mr. Chair. I'd like to nominate John Gwynne for Chair.  
14  
15 Bartholomew: Is that okay with Mr., Mr. Gwynne?  
16  
17 Gwynne: Yes.  
18  
19 Bartholomew: Okay. Any other nomination? Seeing none, is there a motion to close  
20 the nominations?  
21  
22 Herrera: I move to close the nominations.  
23  
24 Bartholomew: Okay. It's been moved. Is there a second?  
25  
26 Gregory: I'll second it.  
27  
28 Bartholomew: Okay. It's been moved and seconded. Could we have a vote by  
29 acclamation to have John Gwynne as Chair for 2016? All in favor please  
30 say "aye."  
31  
32 MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY.  
33  
34 Bartholomew: All opposed? Do you want to take over now, John? I guess the next is,  
35 the next thing would be to select a, a Vice-Chair.  
36  
37 Gwynne: We take nominations for Vice-Chair. Anyone?  
38  
39 Bartholomew: I'll, I'll volunteer to do it, how's that?  
40  
41 Gwynne: Very good. Mike Bartholomew, Mike Bartholomew nominates himself.  
42  
43 Bartholomew: Although Harold's here. Maybe he'll do it again another time.  
44  
45 Gwynne: Any other nominees for Vice-Chair? I'll stand for a motion to close the  
46 nominations.

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Gregory: I'll make that motion.

Gwynne: Second?

Herrera: I second.

Gwynne: Second. All, all in favor?

MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY.

Gwynne: Very well. Let's move on.

**4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**4.1 December 3, 2015**

Gwynne: Let's move on to Item number four, Approval of the Minutes from December 3rd. Has everyone had a chance to have look at the minutes? Are there any questions or, or changes? Staff.

Murphy: Mr. Chair. Last minute review, staff is going to make some administrative changes under, on page one, Members Present we need to, to signify Richard Hanway as representative RoadRUNNER Transit, not LCPS. And Soo Lee was staff present I believe, it, or were you voting? So Mr. Roman was staff present so the, the City didn't have both of you voting last time.

Lee: I present for the Willie Roman last time.

Murphy: Okay. So, and this, Mr. Roman was not present last month?

PERSON IN THE AUDIENCE SPEAKING, NOT AT THE MICROPHONE.

Lee: He was present.

Murphy: So we'll move him to ...

Lee: *As (inaudible) yeah.*

Murphy: So we'll move ...

Lee: With a guest.

Murphy: We'll put him as Others Present then.

1 Lee: Yeah.

2  
3 Murphy: And then, and then Mr. Bartholomew we'll have to put you as a Member  
4 Absent on that date so ...

5  
6 Bartholomew: Correct.

7  
8 Murphy: But those would be the changes that staff was going to make to the  
9 minutes since you, since the packets went out.

10  
11 Gwynne: Okay. Are there any other changes? Okay. I would accept a motion to  
12 accept the minutes as, as amended by staff.

13  
14 Bartholomew: I move that we accept the minutes.

15  
16 Molina: Second.

17  
18 Gwynne: It's been moved and seconded. All those in favor?

19  
20 MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY.

21  
22 **5. PUBLIC COMMENT**

23  
24 Gwynne: All right. Let's move on to Item number five, Public Comment. Do we  
25 have any public comment today? Seeing none.

26  
27 **6. ACTION ITEMS**

28  
29 **6.1 University Ave. Study Corridor**

30  
31 Gwynne: Let's move on to our first Action Item and that's MPO staff.

32  
33 ANDREW WRAY GAVE HIS PRESENTATION.

34  
35 Gwynne: Are there comments from, from the Board?

36  
37 Bartholomew: Mr. Chair. I was reading in the minutes from last time that I, I, I know  
38 there was some questions about the proposed study, perhaps the Zia  
39 Middle School that have some offsite traffic flow and, and Ms. Weston at  
40 times says that, that the final report would have a status update of that  
41 and that was that, is that in the final report?

42  
43 Wray: We did not actually get that status update from Zia Middle School I am  
44 afraid.

45

1 Bartholomew: She said something to the effect that it, the report it might even say, "At  
2 this time we're not doing anything." But, but just address it so.

3  
4 Wray: We'll, we'll follow up with the consultant on that point to make sure that,  
5 that if there needs to be an edit in the text we'll, we'll get that in and let the  
6 Policy Committee know.

7  
8 Bartholomew: Okay. Thank you.

9  
10 Gwynne: Any other questions from the Committee? Any other comments from staff  
11 or the public? Then I'd entertain the, the motion to accept the report as,  
12 as put together.

13  
14 Bartholomew: I recommend that we, or make a recommendation, move that we make a  
15 recommendation to the Policy Committee to approve the University  
16 Avenue Study Corridor.

17  
18 Molina: I'll second that.

19  
20 Gwynne: It's been moved and seconded. Are there any other comments or  
21 questions? All those in favor?

22  
23 MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY.

24  
25 Gwynne: Opposed? Motion carries.

26  
27 Wray: Thank you Mr. Chair.

28  
29 **7. DISCUSSION ITEMS**

30  
31 **7.1 Unified Planning Work Program Presentation**

32  
33 Gwynne: Okay and I believe the next item, item seven, staff has some comments  
34 on the Unified Planning Program presentation.

35  
36 TOM MURPHY GAVE HIS PRESENTATION.

37  
38 Gwynne: Are there any questions from the Committee at this point?

39  
40 Herrera: Mr. Chair.

41  
42 Gwynne: Yes.

43  
44 Herrera: I do have something. I, it's not really a question, more of a suggestion.  
45 Something that we've been talking about at the General Office of the DOT  
46 is looking more at regional safety plans and I know that Tom we've had

1 discussions about that. It seems like you guys already have a pretty good  
2 handle on what the data looks like as far as crash reports and things like  
3 that. Is that something that maybe you could at least start looking at?  
4

5 Murphy: I, I think so. I think that's something that we want to put, put somewhere  
6 in the data area as a, um, if you, if those of you who've gone and looked  
7 through the UPWP this, you know this table of contents there are even  
8 sub-tasks under that as which you know crash map and things of that  
9 nature would fall under that and as we come back in the coming months  
10 we'll get deeper and deeper into these particular items and definitely that's  
11 a excellent suggestion for us to put in there.  
12

13 Herrera: Thank you.

14  
15 Childress: I'd like to ask a question.  
16

17 Gwynne: Sure.  
18

19 Childress: Or bring up a point I guess. When it comes to discussing integrating plans  
20 I want to make sure that this Committee knows that we are probably going  
21 to be initiating a plan start for the Organ Mountain Desert Peaks National  
22 Monument and of course we have the, the Dona Ana Mountains, we have  
23 Picacho Peak, and other landscapes that are within that monument are,  
24 that are either adjacent or within the, the MPO boundary and so I want to  
25 make sure that we put a placeholder there for discussions and one of the  
26 things that we're thinking about is, is, that may be relevant, it may be a  
27 study to look at is transportation network zoning issues around the Dona  
28 Ana Mountains in particular. There's a lot of growth over on that side of, of  
29 the community and we now have a national monument you know adjacent  
30 to urbanization and not sure what that would look like but I want to just  
31 throw that out on the table for thought and consideration. Thank you.  
32

33 Gwynne: Good point. Other questions from the Committee? Tom would, is last  
34 year's version available electronically?  
35

36 Murphy: The last, the, the current ...  
37

38 Gwynne: Yes.  
39

40 Murphy: UPWP is available on our website.  
41

42 Gwynne: Okay.  
43

44 Murphy: And it covers a, it covers this current fiscal year and the prior fiscal year as  
45 well.  
46

1 Gwynne: Okay. Good. Any other questions? Very good.

2

3 **8. COMMITTEE AND STAFF COMMENTS**

4

5 **6.1 City of Las Cruces, Dona Ana County, Town of Mesilla, Las Cruces**  
6 **Public Schools, RoadRUNNER Transit, SCRTD Project Updates**

7

8 Gwynne: Let's move on to Committee and Staff Comments. City of Las Cruces.

9

10 Wray: Actually, Mr. Chair.

11

12 Gwynne: Yes.

13

14 Wray: If I could just hop in just briefly. Since it was the end of the year, everyone  
15 was on vacation. We gave everyone a vacation on offering up their  
16 monthly report for project updates. That's probably going to become a  
17 usual practice for the January TAC since everyone is going to continue to  
18 be on vacation. But just be aware we will be sending the e-mails out for  
19 the February TAC so your responses will be put into the packet and then  
20 up for discussion again at that time. So thank you Mr. Chair.

21

22 Gwynne: Okay. So we'll still accept the verbal updates at this point?

23

24 Wray: Yes. Yes.

25

26 Gwynne: Okay.

27

28 Wray: By all means.

29

30 Gwynne: Okay. City of Las Cruces.

31

32 Trevino: Mr. Chair. In regards to the LC00130, the El Paseo Safety project, the  
33 concurrent letter has been received from NMDOT and the contracts are  
34 currently in the hands of the contractor awaiting signatures so we can  
35 proceed with construction.

36

37 LC00190 which is the Las Cruces Dam Trail project is also, we've  
38 also received the concurrence letter from NMDOT and those contracts are  
39 also in the hands of the contractor awaiting signatures so we can proceed  
40 with construction. And that is it for our two projects.

41

42 Gwynne: Okay. Dona Ana County.

43

44 Molina: And I'll have to, I don't have the LC number but I did submit a, the, an e-  
45 mail to you Andrew so you should've got it. Regardless Dona Ana, oh I'm  
46 sorry, Dripping Springs, that project Dripping Springs/Baylor Canyon is  
actually under construction. What's happening right now is just

1 construction staking so you will see some activity in the weeks to come.  
2 And the Dona Ana School and Camino Real intersection, it's still design.  
3 Right-of-way take is where, where we're at. And with that I'll leave it, you  
4 know if you all have any questions please feel free to ask. Thanks.  
5

6 Gwynne: Okay. Town of Mesilla.

7  
8 Shannon: We have nothing to present.  
9

10 Gwynne: Okay. Las Cruces Public Schools.

11  
12 Gregory: We are, are focusing right now on our education at elementary schools on  
13 pedestrian safety and, and crossing and walking to school. We did just  
14 present a pedestrian and a bicycle awareness safety to all the school bus  
15 drivers which is about 200-plus bus drivers, just about who has the right-  
16 of-way when they're around the streets and in these corridors so we're  
17 also working with the City and picking up some of our meeting dates to  
18 update our Safe Routes to School Action Plan. That's been, we've had a  
19 couple of meetings, had some good work on that so we're going to  
20 continue to do that and try to get that done pretty quickly here hopefully.  
21 And that's, and we're still continuing our weekly and monthly walking  
22 events at the schools also.  
23

24 Gwynne: Okay. RoadRUNNER Transit.

25  
26 Bartholomew: We're still working on trying to move forward with the new service plan  
27 design. The MPO is going to be doing a work session before the Las  
28 Cruces City Council of the, of the plan and also what the cost will be for  
29 the, the conversion with moving bus stops, bus shelters, everything  
30 related to, to the cost of converting to the, to the new service. That's going  
31 to be what is it, one in the afternoon on the eighth of February?  
32

33 Murphy: That's correct.  
34

35 Bartholomew: Will be that presentation. Also because there are a couple new members  
36 on the City Council as well that will be a good introduction to, to the City  
37 Council. And as far as projects that are in the TIP the one, I think is  
38 TL00013 we're going to increase in, in Fiscal Year 2016 the budget for  
39 what we didn't obligate of 2015 monies. This, this is the 2/12ths that  
40 Congress obligated, or appropriated at the very last moment when, when  
41 we'd already had our other grant in and if anybody knows that works with  
42 FTA websites right now. They're switching grant management systems  
43 and they, their old one is offline and their new one isn't online yet so we're  
44 not able to apply for that. So it'll have to be applied for in 2016.  
45

46 Gwynne: Okay. Is there anyone here from Regional Transit District?

1  
2 Armijo: Hi. And we've had quite a bit of activity in the last 30 days. We're now  
3 planning to have a, a Committee meeting next week in which we'll make  
4 final decisions on the routes and the date that we actually roll out,  
5 although I expect that day will probably be the second week of October.  
6 We've worked through all the schedules. We've got the buses here and  
7 as you can see, one outside. We also have the bus stop actually are  
8 starting to go in. I, we're very excited, I got my first commendation this  
9 week and my first complaint. So the service is not even running but we're  
10 getting accommodations for people who are very excited in the area  
11 around Vado. But the route should go forward pretty well. There's a  
12 number of activities being done with that. On a separate note we're also,  
13 have launched kind of a refresh of the passenger rail study that we did  
14 about five, six years ago in this area and I did talk to, with our consultant  
15 over the holidays and began moving data to them so I think I've asked the  
16 MPO for some assistance on that as well. It's a very interesting project.  
17 We expect that we will be in the area with a consultant team and some  
18 local consultants beginning some time in, again also about mid, mid-  
19 February and right now we're working on a schedule as to what the  
20 community engagement will be and how we'll go into the community and  
21 talk a little bit about what the opportunities are for that service. I hope to  
22 have some time in the next few weeks to actually talk to the other MPO in  
23 El Paso cause I think they're, might be involved with this as well. So a lot  
24 of activity going on and we'll hope to give you more information and  
25 update by this time next month. Hopefully we'll actually be in service.  
26 Thank you.

27  
28 Gwynne: Thank you.

29  
30 **6.2 NMDOT Projects Update**

31  
32 Gwynne: DOT. Do we have any updates from, from DOT?

33  
34 Herrera: Mr. Chair. Just a few updates on some of the current construction  
35 projects that are going on. There's still a little bit of work on North Main.  
36 They're doing punch list items right now that hopefully they should be  
37 done quickly on that. You'll still notice some intermittent lane closures at  
38 various times but we hope to be done soon.

39 The Missouri bridge project is moving along very well. There was a  
40 little bit of a delay on delivery of the beams for the bridge but that has  
41 been taken care of so the contractor is really ramping up again on their  
42 work. There's going to be some closures on Missouri as the bridge work  
43 continues but we hope to be done with that contract by the end of March.

44 The Union/Ramp E/I-10 project is just about halfway done. I didn't  
45 get a chance to talk to the project manager so I don't exactly know what

1 that means but on the spreadsheets here it says almost halfway done. So  
2 if you have any specific questions I can get those answered for you.

3 The project on I-10, the mill and inlay from Jackrabbit to the I-10/I-  
4 25 interchange, the contractor is working on milling the westbound lanes  
5 right now. The next phase of that sort of same contract is from the I-10/I-  
6 25 interchange to the Texas state line and the same contractor got that  
7 portion so they'll be working up to the Union/Ramp E traffic control,  
8 stopping, moving on to the six-lane, and then coming back after Union and  
9 Ramp E is done and finishing up that. So I-10, excuse me I-10 all through  
10 town to the Texas state line should be done by the end of 2016. And  
11 that's all I have unless there are specific questions.  
12

13 Bartholomew: I, we, we were trying to get a hold of Mr. Tafoya too about the North Main  
14 that we had some bus stop signs that were taken down and, and they  
15 haven't been put back up yet. We have new signs. I think we were asked  
16 if we wanted to keep the old signs and I said, "Well we'll have probably  
17 some new signs to put up." But we don't have any poles there. They,  
18 they weren't, they weren't put back up and we do have the new signs that  
19 we could give NMDOT to put them up.  
20

21 Herrera: Okay. We'll definitely look into that for you tomorrow.  
22

23 Bartholomew: Okay. Thank you.  
24

25 Gwynne: Any other questions?  
26

27 Lee: Chair.  
28

29 Gwynne: Yes.  
30

31 Lee: I have, I would like to know what's the status of street lighting  
32 improvement on I-10 exit 135.  
33

34 Herrera: I don't have an update on that. Harold do you know where, what the  
35 status of that project is?  
36

37 Love: I think all of the luminaires have been installed and that, that project  
38 should be wrapping up pretty quick.  
39

### 40 **6.3 MPO Staff Projects Update**

41  
42 Gwynne: Okay. The next update will be from MPO staff.  
43

44 Wray: Thank you Mr. Chair. I don't really believe we have anything.  
45

1 Murphy: No. Thanks for Mr. Bartholomew updating the Short-Range Transit Plan  
2 or University, obviously we did. But we have an announcement. Those of  
3 you involved definitely got the invite on there but we have a stakeholder  
4 meeting for the Missouri study next Wednesday and it's going to be in ...  
5

6 Wray: The Public ...  
7

8 Murphy: The Public Works Conference Room.  
9

10 Wray: The Public Works Conference Room, yes.  
11

12 Murphy: On, on Wednesday I believe at ...  
13

14 Wray: Ten o'clock in the morning.  
15

16 Murphy: See we know it together. But that, that concludes MPO staff updates.  
17

18 Gwynne: Okay.  
19

20 **9. PUBLIC COMMENT**  
21

22 Gwynne: Is there any public comment? Seeing no public I guess we can move on.  
23

24 **10. ADJOURNMENT (4:40 p.m.)**  
25

26 Gwynne: I would entertain a motion for adjournment at this point.  
27

28 Bartholomew: I'll move we adjourn.  
29

30 Herrera: Second.  
31

32 Gwynne: All in favor?  
33

34 MOTION PASSES UNANIMOUSLY.  
35

36 Gwynne: The motion so carries. We're adjourned.  
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41  
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43   
44 Chairperson  
45