



REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Sierra Vista Metropolitan Planning Organization
Regular Meeting
Wednesday, July 22, 2015
3:30 PM

City of Sierra Vista
City Hall
City Manager's Conference Room
1011 North Coronado Drive
Sierra Vista, AZ 85635

Web: www.SVMPO.org
Email: SVMPO@SierraVistaAZ.gov

SVMPO Board of Directors

(One or more members may participate via teleconference)

Chair	Rick Mueller, Mayor, City of Sierra Vista
Vice-Chair	Richard Searle, Supervisor, Cochise County Designated Alternate: Pat Call, Supervisor, Cochise County
Member	Hank Huisling, Councilmember, City of Sierra Vista
Member	Bill Harmon, Arizona Department of Transportation

Staff Present

SVMPO Administrator	Dan Coxworth, AICP
SVMPO TAC Vice Chair	Sharon Flissar, City Engineer, City of Sierra Vista
SVMPO TAC Member	Scott Dooley, Director of Public Works, City of Sierra Vista

Others Present

Patricia Molinari, Citizen
Bruce Piepho, Citizen
Tricia Gerrodette, Citizen
Drew Spear, Dibble Engineering
Kent Dibble, Dibble Engineering
Kevin Perko, Dibble Engineering
Tom Crosby, Citizen

1. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

Chair Mueller called the meeting to order at 3:30 p.m.

SVMPO Administrator Coxworth conducted the roll call. Member Bob Blanchard, Councilmember was absent. Chair Mueller confirmed there was a quorum.

2. ACCEPTANCE OF THE AGENDA

Chair Mueller asked for a motion to accept the Agenda for the July 22, 2015 Regular Meeting of the SVMPO, as written. Vice Chair Richard Searle so moved and Member Huisking seconded. The motion passed unanimously, 4/0.

3. CALL TO THE PUBLIC

Patricia Molinari, Citizen, read and explained her concerns with the BST DCR (see attachments).

4. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Vice Chair, Searle moved to accept the May 20, 2015 minutes, with one amendment. Chair Mueller seconded the motion

The amendment included correcting an acronym from NEAPA to NEPA.

5. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPDATES

Chair Mueller stated that at the next Board meeting will be an agreement between the City and SVMPO for services of employing the SVMPO Administer. Future evaluations of the MPO Administrator will be conducted by the Board.

PRESENTATION / DISCUSSION / POSSIBLE ACTION

6. PRESENTATION / DISCUSSION: BUFFALO SOLDIER TRAIL (BST) DESIGN CONEPT REPORT (DCR)

Dan Coxworth / Dibble Engineering

*SUMMARY: Dibble Engineering will give a presentation to the Board concerning the Final Draft of the BST DCR. A copy of the Draft DCR can be found on the SVMPO web site at:
<http://www.svmppo.org/current-projects/buffalo-soldier-trail-design-concept-report/>*

Drew Spear, Engineer, Dibble Engineer gave a presentation (attached) of the Buffalo Soldier Trail, Design Concept Report.

7. POSSIBLE ACTION: BUFFALO SOLDIER TRAIL DESIGN (BST) DESIGN CONCEPT REPORT (DCR)

Board

SUMMARY: Possible action by the Board to accept the BST DCR.

Chair Mueller asked for public comment. Ms. Molinari asked Dibble Engineering why her wells were not identified. Mr. Spear stated that the well site locations were from registered wells with the State. Ms. Molinari made a statement questioning the public input process. Expressing concerns about traffic and the county's ability to deal with it and the MPO's public notification of process of the public meetings.

Further concerns were expressed by Ms. Molinari about the proposed route and process of developing the DCR. Ms. Molinari expressed concerns that the public was not adequately informed.

Chair Mueller asked Mr. Spear about the locations of the wells. Mr. Spear stated they pulled registered wells from ADWR. Ms. Molinari stated that Mr. Coxworth has been fully aware of all her concerns and that they are being ignored. Mr. Spear stated that Dibble only has general knowledge of the well locations but without formal permission to access the property it's not possible to obtain a GPS location of the wells.

Vice Chair Searle asked Mr. Coxworth what are the implications of accepting the report. Mr. Coxworth stated that by accepting the report it will allow the City and County to move on to the next step.

Vice Chair Searle asked Mr. Coxworth what are the implications of not accepting the report. Mr. Coxworth stated that he was not entirely sure, but that the Dibble Engineering report will be made available to the City, County, and MPO for use in the future if needed.

Tricia Gerrodette stated that she was confused by the survey at the January meeting and that she would support a no-build option, but that a no-build option was not provided. Ms. Gerrodette also expressed concerns about the public input process. Ms. Gerrodette discussed and expressed her confusion about the NEPA process. She contacted professionals from FHWA about the NEPA process. Ms. Gerrodette explained that she believes the process should start over, starting with NEPA.

Bruce Piepho asked if Adobe Home Road was considered. Mr. Spear stated that Adobe Home was considered, but that BLM land and its proximity to a cultural site is problematic. Mr. Piepho expressed concerns about the study and the Riverstone project. Chair Mueller explained the Riverstone project is a separate issue for the county. Mr. Piepho recommended that the extension connect to Colonia de Salud. Mr. Piepho expressed concerns about the cost of building a bridge over Garden Creek. Mr. Piepho offered other solutions to relieve traffic on the State Highways.

Vice Chair Searle explained that the study has done a lot of good because that it identified the need for a connection, provided an opportunity for public scrutiny bringing to the surface all the issues of extending BST. Vice Chair stated that he cannot support the recommendation of the Study. Vice Chair Searle further stated that he felt eminent domain would be required and that he does not support eminent domain. Vice Chair Searle stated that Riverstone will have a conservation easement and that there will not be a lot of development on this land.

Vice Chair Searle understands the need to get the traffic off of Moson, but that the route that is being recommended would require eminent domain. The county will need to look at other potential routes to make the east-west connection.

Member Harmon stated that a DCR is a pre-scoping document and a process of discovery. Mr. Harmon stated that he sees the need to develop a more robust transportation network in the region. If the county has a strong objection to eminent domain, then that is considered a fatal flaw. Mr. Harmon felt that there is always more opportunity to further study a potential east-west connection.

Vice Chair Searle explained that the discussion to connect BST to Moson Road will not go away, but that the county will continue to look for routes.

Mr. Harmon stated that if the county feels strongly that eminent domain is not an option, then cannot support a motion to accept the DCR.

Member Huisking stated she understands the need and the difficulty of the process of identifying the location of extending BST. It was necessary to go through the process and that the City and county are still at the discovery phase of a potential east-west connection and that it should continue.

Chair Mueller stated he understands the need for improved traffic circulation in the region. Although, there is a need for another north-south connection there will continue to be a need for an east-west connection to Moson. Chair Mueller respects the county's aversion to use eminent domain. Dibble did what was asked and that the MPO has the report to build on. Chair Mueller expressed his concerns that the region may already be behind in the opportunities to improve regional circulation.

Chair Mueller asked for a motion to accept the BST DCR. Vice Chair Searle made a motion to accept the BST DCR. Member Huisking seconded the motion. The motion failed unanimously, 4/0.

8. DISCUSSION: FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

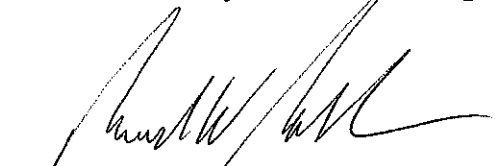
Memorandum of Understanding between the SVMPO and City of Sierra Vista concerning the terms of employment of the MPO Administrator.

9. UPCOMING SCHEDULED MEETINGS

- CANCELLED: SVMPO Board: August 19, 3:30 p.m., City Hall
- SVMPO TAC: August 27, 1:30 p.m., Public Works


10. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Mueller adjourned the meeting at 5:49



Chair Frederick W. Mueller

Minutes prepared by:



*Dan Coxworth, SVMPO Administrator
City of Sierra Vista*