



# **Annual Performance and Expenditure Report**

**For the**

**FY 2007 UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM  
IN THE ALBUQUERQUE METROPOLITAN PLANNING  
AREA**

**STATE FISCAL YEAR 2007  
(JULY 1, 2006 TO JUNE 30, 2007)**

**MID-REGION COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS OF NEW MEXICO  
809 COPPER NW, ALBUQUERQUE, NEW MEXICO 87102**

Mid-Region Council of Governments – Metropolitan Planning Organization  
FY 2007 Unified Planning Work Program  
Annual Performance and Expenditure Report

---

Following is an overview of the major tasks in the FY 2007 Unified Planning Work Program for the Albuquerque Metropolitan Planning Area and the work completed for those tasks. The report includes a breakdown of the planning funds expended by major task and the amount of funds remaining at the end of the year to be carried into FY 2008. This report is submitted in compliance with federal regulations outlined in 23 CFR 420.117(b)(1). The report covers the period between July 1, 2006 and June 30, 2007, which corresponds with the State of New Mexico Fiscal Year 2007.

Major MPO accomplishments in FY2007 include:

- Completed and adopted the 2030 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) – the Metropolitan Transportation Board (MTB) adopted the 2030 MTP April 26, 2007; the conformity determination concurrence from FHWA/FTA/EPA was effective June 30, 2007
- Completed and adopted the FY 2008-2013 Transportation Improvement Program
- Completed amendments and administrative adjustments to the FY 2006-2011 Transportation Improvement Program
- Completed and adopted the annual Unified Planning Work Program
- Continued revisions to the Congestion Management Process
- Worked with the NMDOT to update the regional ITS Architecture – completed during 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of FY 2007
- Adopted revised MTB bylaws to allow for full voting participation by Tribal governments in the Metropolitan Transportation Planning Process
- Addressed three of the four Corrective Actions identified during the 2006 Federal Certification Review
- Further development of the Regional Transit District in the MRCOG area – continued development of a service plan
- Continued work on the Commuter Rail initiative – service between Bernalillo and Albuquerque began July 2006; service expanded to Los Lunas in November 2006, and to Bernalillo in February 2007; the environmental and preliminary engineering for the Albuquerque to Santa Fe stage continued and a preferred alignment was selected during the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of FY 2007
- Facilitated acquisition of regional digital orthophotography
- Continued and expanded coordination efforts with member agencies, tribal governments, and the NMDOT

Mid-Region Council of Governments – Metropolitan Planning Organization  
FY 2007 Unified Planning Work Program  
Annual Performance and Expenditure Report

---

## **PERFORMANCE**

### **1.0 MANAGEMENT & ADMINISTRATION**

**GENERAL DESCRIPTION:** To manage the metropolitan transportation planning process so that the information gathered and analyzed may be effectively used to make sound decisions in an open and collaborative environment. Assure MPO compliance with applicable provisions of Titles 23, 40, and 49 of the US Code and the Code of Federal Regulations that call for a continuing, comprehensive, and cooperative metropolitan transportation planning process.

#### **OBJECTIVES:**

- Coordinate, review, and adopt transportation plans and programs in the AMPA with participating governments and organizations, and with state and federal agencies
- Ensure continued coordination with the NMDOT, the local provider(s) of mass transit, and other local agencies and stakeholders
- Administer and manage transportation planning grants as required by federal, state, and local regulations
- Provide administrative support to MPO boards and committees for all metropolitan transportation planning activities
- Coordinate and implement public involvement procedures and public participation plans
- Provide information to the general public through the web site, meetings, and other media
- Provide professional training and development opportunities to MPO staff in metropolitan transportation planning
- Purchase office equipment and computer hardware and software to effectively carry out metropolitan transportation planning functions
- Continue coordination efforts with Tribal Governments and to offer voting membership on MPO boards and committees

#### **EXPECTED PRODUCTS:**

- Ongoing coordination activities with federal, state, and local partners and other participating agencies and stakeholders
- Ongoing provision of objective and comprehensive information to the MTB and its committees as well as to the general public
- Quarterly reports to the NMDOT and the federal partners as per the NMDOT/MPO Master Memorandum of Agreement

### **1.1 Program Management**

- Conducted monthly committee and board meetings
- Attended the MPO Quarterly meetings in Las Cruces, Santa Fe, Albuquerque

Mid-Region Council of Governments – Metropolitan Planning Organization  
FY 2007 Unified Planning Work Program  
Annual Performance and Expenditure Report

---

- (hosted), and Farmington
- Submitted quarterly reports for FY 2007 to NMDOT and the FHWA Division
- Responded to 2006 Federal Certification Review corrective actions regarding:
  - Tribal participation in the metropolitan transportation planning process
  - ITS Planning and Deployment
  - AMPA boundaries
- Provided briefings on the Transportation Planning Framework and Activities to policy board members, technical committees, and MPO staff (ongoing)
- Completed the Final Draft 2030 MTP; adopted at the April 26, 2007 MTB meeting
- Completed the Final Draft FY 2006 TIP (amended to be consistent with the 2030 MTP); adopted at the April 26, 2007 MTB meeting
- Completed the Final Draft FY 2008 TIP; adopted at the April 26, 2007 MTB meeting
- Completed the Draft FY 2008 UPWP; adopted at the April 26, 2007 MTB meeting
- Finalized and approved changes to the MTB bylaws; changes removed perceived barriers to participation by Tribal Governments (several of the area Tribes have become full voting members of the MTB since the end of FY 2007)
- Met with colleagues in Las Cruces and El Paso regarding TIP development and other metropolitan planning and coordination issues
- Prepared and submitted FY 2006 Annual Performance and Expenditure Report
- Continued coordination and consultation with NMDOT regarding funding issues, long range plans, transportation improvement programs, and major corridor studies (ongoing)
- Facilitated the activities of the Roadway Access Committee to review access modification requests

## 1.2 Public Involvement Process and Information Sharing

- The majority of activities completed under this subtask were performed in support of the development and approval of the 2030 Metropolitan Transportation Plan
  - Presented 2030 MTP briefings to TPTG, TCC, PIC and MTB
  - Presented 2030 MTP briefings to:
    - Westside Coalition of Neighborhood Associations
    - Southwest Alliance of Neighbors
    - New Mexico Environmental Justice Group
    - Alameda Neighborhood Association
    - Rio Rancho Transportation Summit
    - Society of American Military Engineers (Kirtland AFB and Sandia National Laboratories)
    - Mountain View Neighborhood Association
    - New Mexico State Transportation Commission
  - Held a series of final Public Open Houses and Workshops
    - Town of Bernalillo
    - East Mountain Coalition of Neighborhood Associations
    - Albuquerque Workshop during PIC meeting
    - Sandoval County
    - Village of Los Lunas

Mid-Region Council of Governments – Metropolitan Planning Organization  
FY 2007 Unified Planning Work Program  
Annual Performance and Expenditure Report

---

- Earth Day celebrations at Sandia National Laboratories
- Completed formal 30-day public comment period on final draft version of 2030 MTP and responded to comments before plan adoption by MTB

### **1.3 Professional Development and Training**

- Staff attended 3 day training on GIS Data Production and Editing Techniques for ArcGIS 9.1
- Senior Data Analyst attended conference of socioeconomic modelers which will facilitate assessment of MRCOG technology systems and applications for forecasting environments
- Trails Coordinator attended Context Sensitive Solutions and Design Workshop
- Hosted FHWA webinar on new Transportation Planning Rules

Mid-Region Council of Governments – Metropolitan Planning Organization  
FY 2007 Unified Planning Work Program  
Annual Performance and Expenditure Report

---

## **2.0 DATA, MAPPING AND TECHNICAL SERVICES**

**GENERAL DESCRIPTION:** To maintain a high quality technical environment and provide accessible and pertinent information to the MPA transportation decision making process. Activities under this task range from data collection, forecasting and technical support to enhancing the modeling and planning environment.

### **OBJECTIVES:**

Collect, assimilate, generate, and maintain data and information necessary to support modeling, programming, and project development activities in the region

### **EXPECTED PRODUCTS:**

This is an ongoing task that encompasses the collection, maintenance, and analysis of data, such as those collected as part of routine programs. It includes information produced in any one or all of the many MRCOG modeling environments, such as socioeconomic forecasts, traffic projections, and accessibility-based market profiles. The data is captured, processed and subsequently used in identifying transportation issues, proposing solutions, and evaluating the activities that are subsequently implemented. The products from Task 2.0 are continuously updated and compiled in various formats and made available to MPO and MRCOG staff, other professional staff from state and local governments, and the public. All data from this Task are intended to facilitate informed decision-making by elected and governing officials for other tasks identified in this Unified Planning Work Program.

### **2.1 Traffic Surveillance Program**

- Collected, analyzed, and transmitted various traffic count data to the NMDOT and MPO member agencies
  - Ongoing data collection efforts
    - Traffic volume counts
    - Vehicle classification counts
    - Intersection turning movement counts
    - Bicycle and pedestrian counts
    - GPS travel time data collection
    - 92 special request counts
    - Responded to 123 data requests
- Trained new staff as necessary
- Generated 2005 Traffic Flow Map supplemental statistics
- Generated 2007 traffic counts schedule for tube counts for volume and vehicle classification data
- Generated 2007 intersection turning movement count schedule
- Updated street inventory file with the new CHDB segment IDs obtained from NMDOT for the newly added roadway segments
- Updated traffic counts databases with the most recent counts data

Mid-Region Council of Governments – Metropolitan Planning Organization  
FY 2007 Unified Planning Work Program  
Annual Performance and Expenditure Report

---

- Generated 2006 Monthly Adjustment factors, growth factors and loop correction factors in preparation for development of the 2006 Traffic Flow Map using monthly permanent counter data provided by NMDOT
- Produced the 2006 Traffic Flow Maps for the urban area and rural areas of Bernalillo, Sandoval, and Tarrant counties and the East Mountains; posted the Traffic Flow Maps on the MRCOG web site and prepared for distribution of printed versions

## **2.2 Digital Orthophotography**

- Managed a contract to acquire and produce digital orthophotography and terrain data products
- Performed quality control/quality assurance checks on 2006 digital orthoimagery
- Contractor delivered high resolution 6" inch resolution imagery for Bernalillo County, Valencia County, Sandoval County, the Valley Improvement Association option, and the Socorro County option in NM State Plane and UTM projections; distributed data to the 18 state and local government cooperators, as well as the US Geological Survey in Denver
- Provided 2006 orthoimagery data to consultants and agencies upon request
- Began planning for a Spring 2008 cooperative project for the region and coordinated with USGS for potential funding for 2008

## **2.3 Socioeconomic Data and Forecasting**

- Provided forecast of population, housing, employment and commuting in the region for the 2030 MTP; final 2030 MTP socioeconomic datasets will be completed in early FY 2008
- Provided forecasts for the Bernalillo County Impact Fee Assessment Committee
- Worked with Sandia Pueblo to include their land use on existing land use and forecast land use maps
- Continue to update the Land Use Allocation Model (LAM) with development cases received from the City of Albuquerque, Bernalillo County, and other agencies (ongoing)
- Finalized Population Estimates for the Counties and Municipalities in the region for 2005 and 2006; estimates are posted on the MRCOG website and distributed to local governments.
- Summarized and distributed American Community Survey (ACS) data for 2005
- Provided comments to US Census Bureau on 2010 Census new proposed guidelines for block group and tract population and housing thresholds
- Continue to collect building permit information from member agencies; information is used to maintain the permit database (ongoing)
- Provided socioeconomic forecasting assistance (participation in these projects will be ongoing and continue into FY 2008)
  - South I-25 Corridor Study
  - Unser Corridor Study
  - Westland/Suncal Master Planned Area

Mid-Region Council of Governments – Metropolitan Planning Organization  
FY 2007 Unified Planning Work Program  
Annual Performance and Expenditure Report

---

## 2.4 Travel Analysis and Forecasting

- Performed travel forecast and trip distribution analysis including multi path select zone, multi path select link, travel time, and trip table extraction for the 2030 Metropolitan Transportation Plan
  - Analyses included travel demand model runs and travel time contours for alternative scenarios for 2004, 2015, 2015 No Build, and 2030
- Performed travel forecast and trip distribution analysis including multi path select zone, multi path select link, travel time, and trip table extraction for the following projects:
  - Paseo del Norte/I 25 interchange (NMDOT); see task 5.5b
  - US 550 Corridor Study (NMDOT and MRCOG); see Task 5.5a
  - Regional Transit District (RTD); see Task 5.1
  - Unser Blvd/Lyons Blvd between Paradise Blvd and Irving Blvd for Bernalillo County
  - I-25 South Corridor Study between Isleta Blvd and I-40

## 2.5 GIS Technical Services

- Completed mapping for the 2030 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP)
- Completed the 2006 traffic flow maps for the metropolitan area and for the rural area counties
- Completed TIP/STIP project mapping by milepost events for 2030 MTP Projects
- Other mapping services for:
  - Regional Transit District
  - Bosque trail extension
  - Congestion Management Process
  - Incident Management
  - Pedestrian index maps for pedestrian planning by City of Albuquerque elected officials
  - Platting, base data revisions, and equestrian trail mapping for the Village of Corrales
- Crash data and analysis:
  - Computed new crash rates and generated related crash rate maps
  - Generated bike and pedestrian crash data in support of Bicycle/Pedestrian planning
  - Obtained 2005 crash data from Division of Government Research of UNM and geo-corrected to match the historical crash data at the intersection level
  - Obtained new geocoded crash data for 1996 to 2005 from UNM-DGR which provided for more accurate crash data in the rural areas
  - Generated various crash-related statistics for inclusion in the safety element of the 2030 MTP
  - Generated a new historical crash rate for 2000 – 2005 for the AMPA using a new methodology for calculating crash rates; method utilizes AWDT to ADT conversion factors by functional classification rather one single regional conversion factor to produce crash rates per 1,000,000 vehicles

Mid-Region Council of Governments – Metropolitan Planning Organization  
FY 2007 Unified Planning Work Program  
Annual Performance and Expenditure Report

---

- Provided crash data to various local member governments
- Ongoing activities:
  - Updated GIS traffic counts coverages to reflect the newly built roadway segments and signalized intersections
  - Transmitted traffic counts statistics to member governments
  - Transmitted various crash related data to the local member governments and private agencies
  - Completed quarterly updates of traffic counts databases
- Other:
  - Geocoded building permit data to support socioeconomic estimates
  - Updated functional classification data for the Traffic Counting coverages with the most recent functional classification data provided by NMDOT
  - Upgraded to ArcGIS 9.2 (ArcInfo level) for several MRCOG GIS users
  - Loaded updated tool for ArcView 3.x users for access to 2006 imagery
  - Provided digital data to consultants and agencies upon request

## **2.6 Environmental Justice Analysis**

- Developed the EJ element of the 2030 MTP

## **2.7 Development Proposal Review**

- Reviewed local development proposals to insure consistency with current adopted policies of the Metropolitan Transportation Board, including the MTP, TIP, and Roadway Access Policies (ongoing)

## **2.8 Technical Assistance Forum**

- Provided technical data analysis and support to the following studies/projects:
  - Bernalillo County Impact Fee Analysis (Bernalillo County)
  - City-wide Intersection Level of Service Study (City of Albuquerque)
  - Great Streets Facility Plan (City of Albuquerque)
  - I-25/Paseo del Norte Interchange (NMDOT)
  - I-40/Carlisle to Pennsylvania Project (NMDOT)
  - Intersection Study (City of Albuquerque)
  - Kirtland Air Force Base Joint Land Use Study (MRCOG, KAFB, NM Department of Homeland Security)
  - Mesa del Sol Interchange (NMDOT)
  - Mesa del Sol Level B Community Master Plan & Technical Appendix Analysis (Bernalillo County)
  - Modern Streetcar Project (City of Albuquerque)
  - New Mexico Long Range Transportation Plan (RPO, NMDOT)
  - Sunset Road Analysis (City of Albuquerque and Bernalillo County)
  - Unser Boulevard, Paradise to Irving (Bernalillo County)
  - US 550 Corridor Study (NMDOT)
  - Westland/SunCal Arterial Roadways Analysis (City of Albuquerque)

Mid-Region Council of Governments – Metropolitan Planning Organization  
FY 2007 Unified Planning Work Program  
Annual Performance and Expenditure Report

---

**2.9 Modeling Environment**

- Acquired new travel demand model for integration into the new software platform (CUBE)

Mid-Region Council of Governments – Metropolitan Planning Organization  
FY 2007 Unified Planning Work Program  
Annual Performance and Expenditure Report

---

### **3.0 LONG RANGE PLANNING**

**GENERAL DESCRIPTION:** To develop, adopt, publish, maintain, and implement long-range plans that serve and reflect the needs of the Metropolitan Planning Area and comply with pertinent federal and state requirements.

**OBJECTIVES:**

- Coordinate long-range planning activities with local, state, and federal agencies
- Develop planning products for the long-range time period that reflect the guidance of the UPWP
- Ensure continuing compliance with federal air quality standards

**EXPECTED PRODUCTS:**

This is a continuing task that results in a multimodal, long-range metropolitan transportation plan that conforms with applicable state implementation plans (SIPs). Inputs into the MTP are generally covered from Task 2.0 and from bicycle/pedestrian, air quality, transit, and ITS planning activities as well as from the Congestion Management System.

### **3.1 Metropolitan Transportation Plan**

(As per 23 CFR 450, the Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) is required to be updated every 4 years. The efforts to update the MTP began in early federal FY 2005. Activities have been reported in quarterly reports submitted to the NMDOT and the FHWA Division, and FY 2006 activities were reported in the FY 2006 Annual Performance and Expenditure Report. Items reported here represent the final products generated from more than two years work.)

- Presented 2030 MTP briefings to TPTG, TCC, PIC and MTB (ongoing)
- Continued and completed all facets and elements of the MTP; incorporated results into the 2030 MTP Public Review Draft
- Continued and completed exhaustive public involvement efforts begun in 2005; conducted a series of final Public Open Houses and Workshops in Town of Bernalillo; East Mountain Coalition of Neighborhood Associations; Albuquerque Workshop during PIC meeting; Sandoval County; Village of Los Lunas; Earth Day celebrations at Sandia National Laboratories
- Completed formal 30-day public comment period on final draft version of 2030 MTP and responded to comments before plan adoption by MTB; continued 2030 MTP refinement and incorporation of public/stakeholder comments as appropriate
- MTB approved 2030 MTP on April 26, 2007
- FHWA, FTA and US EPA issued determination letter agreeing that the 2030 MTP conforms with State Implementation Plans for air quality; the 2030 MTP is fully

Mid-Region Council of Governments – Metropolitan Planning Organization  
FY 2007 Unified Planning Work Program  
Annual Performance and Expenditure Report

---

approved and SAFETEA-LU compliant as of June 30, 2007 and is effective for four years (June 30, 2011)

### **3.2 Bicycle/Pedestrian Planning**

- Developed the Long Range Bikeway System map and a map of the publicly and privately funded bicycle and pedestrian projects included in the 2030 Metropolitan Transportation Plan
- Coordinated with the NMDOT to host a Safe Routes to School webinar in July 2007 (1<sup>st</sup> quarter State FY 2008)
- Generated a series of preliminary bicycle and pedestrian products and analysis for the I-25 South Corridor Study
- As part of a multi-agency working group, developed and distributed “FY2008 Pedestrian Safety Seed Grant (PSSG08)” request for proposals
- Continued facilitate the regional WABAG (ongoing)
- Developed a general concept for a “Pedestrian Small Grant” program in the 2030 MTP
- Continued to enhance the methodology of the Pedestrian Composite Index

### **3.3 ITS Regional Planning**

- The AMPA Regional ITS Architecture was completed and delivered to the MRCOG and the NMDOT; submitted response to Federal Certification Review Corrective Actions regarding ITS Planning and Deployment (see task 1.1)
- Integrated regional ITS functions and projects into the 2030 MTP as part of the Systems Management and Operations Element
- Facilitated an Incident Management and Traffic Response workshop with key members of the ITS Subcommittee as well as First Responders within the AMPA and State in close coordination with the FHWA and NMDOT
- Supported the ITS Subcommittee in updating its participation list (roster), charter, and mission statement
- Continued coordination of ITS functions within the AMPA through the ITS Subcommittee (ongoing)

### **3.4 Transit Planning**

- Completed work on the Public Transportation section of the 2030 MTP; transit planning activities are incorporated into the development of the 2030 MTP (Task 3.1)

### **3.5 Air Quality Planning**

- Air quality planning activities are incorporated into the development of the 2030 MTP (Task 3.1)
- Coordinated with Transportation Conformity Technical Committee (TCTC) on the conformity process for the 2030 MTP, the FY 2006-2011 TIP, and the FY 2008-

Mid-Region Council of Governments – Metropolitan Planning Organization  
FY 2007 Unified Planning Work Program  
Annual Performance and Expenditure Report

---

2013 TIP; followed a coordinated interagency consultation process to complete the  
Conformity Determination for the 2030 MTP (see Task 3.1)

Mid-Region Council of Governments – Metropolitan Planning Organization  
FY 2007 Unified Planning Work Program  
Annual Performance and Expenditure Report

---

#### **4.0 SHORT RANGE PLANNING, PROGRAMMING, & IMPLEMENTATION**

**GENERAL DESCRIPTION:** To develop, adopt, publish, maintain, and implement short-range plans and programs that serve and reflect the needs of the Metropolitan Planning Area and comply with pertinent federal and state requirements.

#### **OBJECTIVES:**

- Develop short-range transportation programs for management and implementation of projects and planning tasks and programming of federal, state, and local transportation funds
- Coordinate short-range planning and programming efforts with participating agencies
- Coordinate development of the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) through the Transportation Program Task Group (TPTG), the TCC, and the MTB
- Update the Congestion Management System (CMS) and integrate it into the metropolitan transportation planning process

#### **EXPECTED PRODUCTS:**

- A TIP that is consistent with the current MTP
- A CMS that provides tools and methodologies for the MPO staff and participating agencies to analyze and prioritize projects and programs
- An annual Unified Planning Work Program that provides program guidance for MPO staff and participating agencies
- An Annual Listing of Obligated Projects

#### **4.1 Transportation Improvement Program**

- Finalized the 2006-2011 TIP and the Draft 2008-2013 TIP in coordination with the 2030 MTP development process; the MTB approved both TIPs on April 26, 2007
- Continued coordination efforts with New Mexico Dept. of Transportation regarding STIP – TIP synchronization (ongoing)
- Processed amendments to the 2006-2011 TIP in compliance with the quarterly cycle agreed to by the NMDOT and MPOs
- Processed administrative modifications to the TIP as needed
- Maintained and updated the project tracking database (ongoing).

#### **4.2 Congestion Management System**

(The Congestion Management System as defined in 23 CFR 450 and 23 CFR 500 has been revised per SAFETEA-LU and is now the Congestion Management Process. The MRMPO began revising its CMS in 2005 to establish a framework that integrates CMS into the planning process. These efforts are ongoing and expected to result in full compliance with CMP regulations by the end of federal FY 2008)

Mid-Region Council of Governments – Metropolitan Planning Organization  
FY 2007 Unified Planning Work Program  
Annual Performance and Expenditure Report

---

- Continuing efforts that began in FY 2005 to restructure the CMS to better integrate into the planning process:
  - Established a Congestion Management Process subcommittee to develop the CMP framework; subcommittee will serve interagency coordination function and provide recommendations to the TCC for ultimate MTB approval of the CMP
- Conducted CMS analysis of the 2030 MTP networks

#### **4.3 Unified Planning Work Program**

- Completed tasks identified in the FY 2007 UPWP
- Completed and submitted the Annual Performance and Expenditure Report for FY 2006
- Completed and published the Annual Listing of Obligated Projects for FY 2006
- Finalized the Draft FY 2008 UPWP which was approved by the MTB April 26, 2007 and submitted to the NMDOT and FHWA for review and approval

#### **4.4 Short and Medium Range Transit Planning**

- Coordinated with regional transit providers to assess transit planning efforts and develop short and long range projects for the 2030 MTP and for the revised 2006-2011 TIP and the draft 2008-2013 TIP
- Continued periodic coordination efforts with transit providers (ongoing)

Mid-Region Council of Governments – Metropolitan Planning Organization  
FY 2007 Unified Planning Work Program  
Annual Performance and Expenditure Report

---

## 5.0 SPECIAL STUDIES & PROJECTS

**GENERAL DESCRIPTION:** Under this activity, the MPO develops specialized planning products that reflect the MPA planning needs and process. Funding for these projects is provided outside the usual Federal Planning funds process but it critical to maintaining these activities, which provide critical inputs to a constantly improving transportation planning process

**OBJECTIVES:** Develop transportation strategies that can be planned and programmed in the MTP and TIP.

**EXPECTED PRODUCTS:** Recommendations and preferred alternatives in reports.

### 5.1 Regional Transit District

- Continued work to develop service and financial plans
  - Completed consultant selection process; selected HDR as the prime consultant
  - Began work on the background conditions report
  - Participated in the Rio Rancho Chamber of Commerce Regional Transit Summit
- Held a transit “White Paper” discussion session with Mid-Region Transit District Board members in October 2006
- Attended the NMDOT FTA Section 5311 subrecipient training workshop
- Executed an agreement between Sandoval County and the Mid-Region Transit District whereby Sandoval County designated the MRTD as the exclusive agent of the County for the purpose of administering, planning, implementing, operating, and performing other acts as needed for the successful undertaking of the County’s new Section 5311 program
  - Worked with Sandoval County to prepare and begin rural transit service
    - Coordinated regarding: name of the service, service logo, coach run schedules, and stop locations
    - Provided presentations to the various municipal and tribal entities within the service area
    - Media announcement of the start of the service
    - Installation of bus stop signs
    - Worked with media agency to develop route and schedule pamphlets and design of advertising sign
- Attended CRRAFT training
- Provided expert witness testimony regarding regional transit district legislation during the legislative session
- Held public meeting to obtain input regarding the quality of the service, and obtain suggestions regarding schedule and routing

### 5.2 Commuter Rail Service

Detailed status of the Belen to Santa Fe Commuter Rail Project is available on the

Mid-Region Council of Governments – Metropolitan Planning Organization  
FY 2007 Unified Planning Work Program  
Annual Performance and Expenditure Report

---

RailRunner web site at: <http://www.nmrailrunner.com/>

- Phase I:
  - Commuter Rail Service between Albuquerque and Bernalillo began July 14, 2006
  - Opened service to Los Lunas on December 14th 2006
  - Initiated ticket sales on the north portion of the line on November 1<sup>st</sup>; utilizing handheld ticket devices that accept cash and credit cards
  - Opened service to Belen on February 2<sup>nd</sup>, marking the implementation of service along the **entire** Phase I corridor
    - Service schedule expanded to include three peak period trips to the south in both the a.m. and p.m.
    - Added a “reverse peak direction” trip during the a.m. and p.m. periods between Belen and Albuquerque
  - Beginning Memorial Day weekend and running through Labor Day weekend, the New Mexico Rail Runner Express is offering special Friday and Saturday service for the summer
  - The Downtown Bernalillo, and Bernalillo County/International Sunport Stations were opened in April 2007
- Phase II:
  - Continued working on the environmental and preliminary engineering components for Phase II
  - Held a public meeting in November 2006 to provide information on recent evaluations of noise, biological and cultural resources, property acquisition, cost, performance and other criteria related to the two remaining alternatives
  - Held several follow-up meetings with neighborhood associations, the Santa Fe County Commission, the Santa Fe City Council and the Santa Fe MPO
  - The Santa Fe MPO passed a resolution in February of 2007 supporting the selection of Alternative 1 (the I-25 median alternative) as the preferred alignment connecting Waldo junction with the Santa Fe Southern line near St. Francis and I-25
  - The NMDOT concurred with the Santa Fe MPO by adopting Alternative 1 as the locally preferred alternative
  - Finalized a project development strategy for implementing Phase II
    - The strategy includes a traditional design-bid-build of the reconstruction of 4.5 miles of the Santa Fe Southern line from I-25 into Downtown Santa Fe, and a design-build implementation of the new track (approximately 17.6 miles long) between Waldo Junction and the Santa Fe Southern Line
  - Awarded a contract to construct locomotives for Phase II service
  - Released an RFP for the 7200 tons of new track and 87,000 railroad ties needed to extend the line to Santa Fe.
  - The SF MPO incorporated the Phase II alignment into the SF MPO MTP and funding for the extension in the SF MPO TIP in April.
  - Submitted a Draft EA and CFR 810 application to FHWA; approval is pending

### 5.3 United We Ride – New Mexico

Mid-Region Council of Governments – Metropolitan Planning Organization  
FY 2007 Unified Planning Work Program  
Annual Performance and Expenditure Report

---

- Continued working group meetings from previous fiscal year
- Met with the Secretary of the Aging and Long-Term Services Department to discuss the project
- Provided project presentations:
  - Southwest Conference on Disabilities
  - NMED Infrastructure Conference
  - Valencia County DVR group
- Presented Task 2 – “Bench Marking” report to the Mid-Region Transit District Board of Directors and to the Behavioral Health Collaborative
- Continued committee work on various elements of the coordinated transportation plan
- Met with NMHSD – Income Support Division to discuss how the TANF program could fit in the United We Ride – New Mexico program
  - Met with Deputy Secretary to discuss the project
- The committees continued to work on various elements of the coordinated transportation plan
  - Committee members provided draft recommendations
  - Prepared an initial draft of the coordinated transportation plan
  - Held numerous public meetings to present the plan and obtain comments

#### **5.4 Rio Grande Bosque Trail Extension**

- Continued planning and design efforts to extend a regional multi-use trail along the Rio Grande:
  - Continued coordination with consultants, local jurisdictions and stakeholders, public outreach, and right of way and field investigations in order to evaluate alignment alternatives and select preferred alignment, and identify additional pilot projects
  - Developed draft Blueprint
  - Finalized Alignment Analysis and Implementation Plan with consultant
  - Nearing completion of design of Rio Rancho pilot project
    - Working toward resolution of all outstanding issues so that the Rio Rancho pilot project can go to construction
    - Rio Rancho pilot project pending resolution of easement, cultural resource and permitting issues
  - Initiated local government coordination for Los Lunas pilot project
    - Los Lunas pilot project, local government coordination, site analysis/evaluation, scoping for environmental compliance
  - Completed feasibility study for Albuquerque/Corrales connection pilot project and distributed for review

#### **5.5 Study Team/Project Technical Support**

##### **5.5.A US 550 Corridor Study – Northwest Loop to I-25**

Mid-Region Council of Governments – Metropolitan Planning Organization  
FY 2007 Unified Planning Work Program  
Annual Performance and Expenditure Report

---

- The Phase A study was substantially concluded this Fiscal Year as results from the analysis of alternatives were detailed in a report and subjected to two very well attended public meetings
  - Completed the analysis on a multitude of operational improvements and several longer term corridor improvements
  - Public comment period closed on June 30<sup>th</sup>; comments were under review; future of this study is unknown at this point
- Provided a briefing on the results to the TCC during 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter

#### **5.5.B I-25/Paseo del Norte Interchange Study**

- Participated in Technical Advisory Committee (ongoing)
- Performed TRAM market analysis for High Occupancy Vehicles (HOV) and High Capacity Transit (HCT) scenarios
- Provided roadway alternatives analyses to NMDOT for planning phase of study
- Study team provided a briefing to the TCC during 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter

#### **5.5.C I-25 Corridor Study – I-40 to Isleta Blvd**

- Participated in study kickoff meeting held March 14<sup>th</sup> to review scoping and technical support
- Participated in study coordination team meetings with NMDOT and Consulting Planners to review scoping and planning support to be conducted by MPO
- Further work to be performed in FY 2008

#### **5.5.D Central Avenue Modern Streetcar Project**

- No direct participation in this project

#### **5.5.E Statewide Strategic Multimodal Plan**

- No direct participation in this project

#### **5.5.F I-25/I-40/State System/River Crossings Managed Lanes/Ramp Metering Study**

- Established subcommittee of the TCC to review the direction of this project; subcommittee agreed:
  - Appropriate direction is to conduct a targeted comprehensive corridor study, establish responsibilities and deliverables, and identify funding for the study
  - Provided briefings to the TCC and to the MTB
  - Further activity is pending MTB direction and funding availability

#### **5.6 Mid-Region Model Environment Assessment**

- MRMPO staff identified the following steps that will need to be investigated and completed for a thorough technical assessment:

Mid-Region Council of Governments – Metropolitan Planning Organization  
FY 2007 Unified Planning Work Program  
Annual Performance and Expenditure Report

---

- Purpose
- Need for a Technical Assessment
- Goals of the Assessment and Plan
- Identification of Current Technical Environments, Software, Applications
- Identify Performance Gaps and Limitations
- Establish Range of Possibilities and Prioritize Needs
- Evaluate, analyze and compare options
- Develop course of action based on reasonability and cost effectiveness
- Formalize/Implement plan
- Initiated review of purpose and need, desired capabilities, and current tools;
  - Identified the need for a technical assessment of modeling environments including the identification of necessary and desired changes and an exploration of the various options available in terms of both software and modeling applications. The end product of this assessment will be the development of a 3-5 year technical plan outlining a preferred course of action for the MPO's modeling environments and a general direction for data production, storage, analytical tools and distribution within those environments. Other intended benefits of a Technical Plan will be:
    - Improving organizational efficiency by fitting the Transportation Staff's technical needs into the greater organization's needs by purchasing compatible and multi-purpose software;
    - Improving staff preparedness as the need for decisions becomes imminent as different applications become obsolete through changing technology;
    - Maintaining a competitive work product by employing current technology;
    - Gaining an awareness of what our partnering organizations are doing in this area and improving data sharing and access issues.
- As of the end of the state Fiscal Year, staff are establishing range of possibilities, researching alternatives to the current systems, both in terms of software and modeling; will prioritize needs when the range of options development is complete
  - Made recommendations to management regarding:
    - a new plotter and the model that staff proposed for purchase
    - the number of ArcView 9.2 licenses that were needed in the next fiscal year for staff

Mid-Region Council of Governments – Metropolitan Planning Organization  
 FY 2007 Unified Planning Work Program  
 Annual Performance and Expenditure Report

**PERFORMANCE**

Final FY 2007 UPWP Budget

FUNDING SOURCE	TOTAL	FY 2007 BUDGET	FY 2006 CARRY OVER
FHWA (85%)	\$1,642,107	\$ 887,556	\$ 754,551
COG LOCAL (15%)	279,835	151,250	128,585
FTA GRANT (80%)	214,789	214,789	-
COG LOCAL (20%)	53,697	53,697	-
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$2,190,428</b>	<b>\$1,307,292</b>	<b>\$ 883,136</b>

Final FY 2007 UPWP Expenditures

Task	Description	Actual Task Expenditures	Percent
Task 2007-1	Management and Administration	\$334,490.81	28%
Task 2007-2	Data, Mapping, and Technical Service	\$274,648.44	23%
Task 2007-3	Long Range Planning	\$277,272.04	23%
Task 2007-4	Short Range Planning, Programming, and Implementation	\$157,373.10	13%
Task 2007-5	Special Studies	\$154,541.31	13%
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$1,198,325.71</b>	<b>100.00%</b>

Funding Summary

	FHWA	FTA	Total Planning Funds
Federal Planning Funds Authorized	\$1,642,107.00	\$214,789.00	\$1,856,896.00
Local Match	\$279,834.71	\$53,697.25	\$333,531.96
Total Funds Available in FY 2007	\$1,921,941.71	\$268,486.25	\$2,190,427.96
Total Federal Funds Expended in FY 2007	\$794,455.05	\$214,789.00	\$1,009,244.05
Total Matching Funds Expended in FY 2007	\$135,384.66	\$53,697.00	\$189,081.66
<b>Estimated Carryover Funds for FY 2008 (FHWA Only)</b>	<b>\$847,651.95</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$847,651.95</b>

Mid-Region Council of Governments – Metropolitan Planning Organization  
FY 2007 Unified Planning Work Program  
Annual Performance and Expenditure Report

---

## **SUMMARY**

The Mid-Region Metropolitan Planning Organization met its goals for all major planning tasks during FY 2007. The 2030 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP) was completed and approved by the Metropolitan Transportation Board (MTB) on April 26, 2007. The concurrence letter from FHWA/FTA/EPA for the Conformity Determination was dated June 30, 2007. This begins the four-year clock for the next MTP update. The 2030 MTP and the FY 2006-2011 and FY 2008-2013 Transportation Improvement Programs (TIPs) fully comply with the SAFETEA-LU planning regulations issued February 14, 2007.

The UPWP was revised once during FY 2007 to accommodate program funding changes. No changes in scope were made to the FY 2007 UPWP after its adoption. There is a substantial difference between the amount of planning funds available at the beginning of the fiscal year and the actual expenditures at the end of the fiscal year. The difference exists because the amount of local matching funds available has not kept pace with the increases in federal planning program funds. This is a problem that has been apparent during the last several UPWP cycles but for which a solution remains elusive. While it is true that the Mid-Region MPO enjoys a substantial amount of carryover funds from year to year as a result of these circumstances, this is not sustainable given the increased responsibilities the MPO has subsequent to the implementation of SAFETEA-LU planning regulations.