



Quarterly Newsletter



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New Administrator Hired

The Sierra Vista MPO welcomed their new Administrator, Karen Lamberton, in September 2018. A ten-month search and selection process was undertaken after the former Administrator, Dan Coxworth, moved on to fill Cochise County’s Planning Director vacancy. Ms. Lamberton has worked in the transportation planning field for over 23 years; most recently as Cochise County’s Transportation Planner. Prior to that she was the long-range transportation planner for Pima Association of Governments, the MPO for the Pima County region. She has an educational background in politics and law with a Master’s degree in Planning from the University of Arizona. The Chair of the Sierra Vista MPO, Mayor Mueller, stated that the selection committee was “very impressed with Ms. Lamberton’s credentials.”

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Acronym Definitions

MPO: Metropolitan Planning Organization

SVMPO: Sierra Vista MPO

ADOT: Arizona Department of Transportation

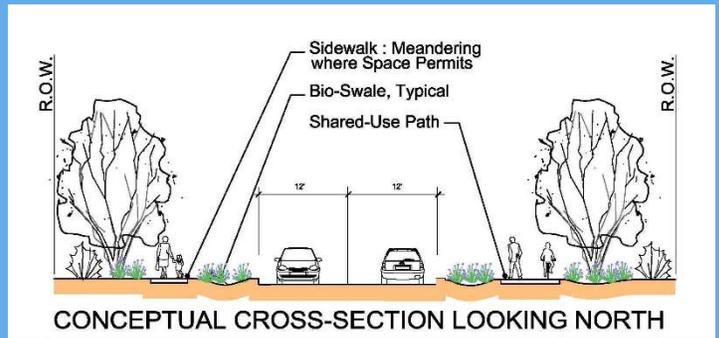
North Garden Project Initiated

The City of Sierra Vista's City Council approved an Intergovernmental Agreement with the Arizona Dept. of Transportation on Sept. 13, 2018 for this \$2.54-million-dollar improvement on North Garden Ave. and Fry Blvd.

This is a multi-phased project with the first area of improvement focused on Fry Blvd. between North Garden Ave. and Fab Avenue and along North Garden Ave. between Fry Blvd and Whitton.

A design contractor will be selected and construction work begin in mid-2020. The project schedule anticipates completion within two years.

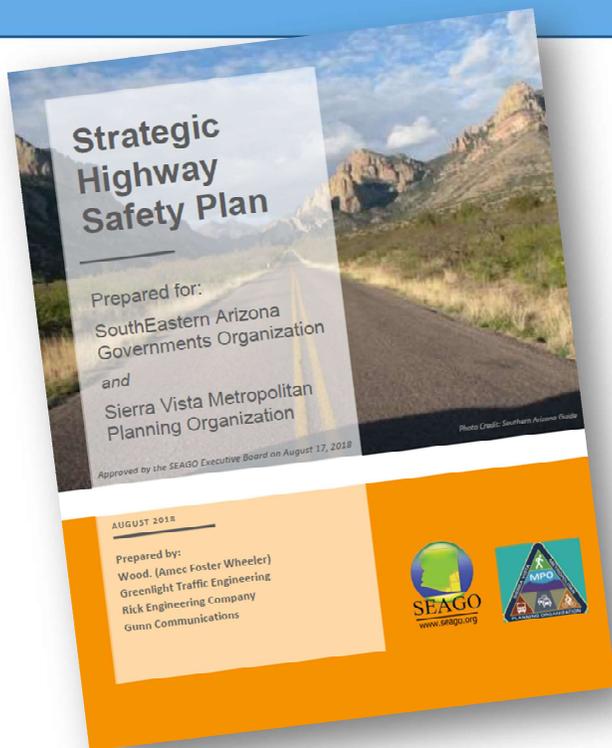
Watch for project details on the SVMPO website:
www.svmpto.org



Fry Blvd. will be reconfigured into a 3-lane cross-section with the addition of new, wider sidewalks.

Energy efficient LED pedestrian lighting will be installed, landscaping using water harvesting and irrigation techniques are included.

Amenities like bicycle racks and providing for ADA access are part of the design of this enhanced multi-modal neighborhood project.



Read the **2018 Strategic Highway Safety Plan**, now available online at www.svmpto.org

Safety Moment

The Sierra Vista MPO partnered with the Southeastern Council of Governments (SEAGO) and the Arizona Dept. of Transportation to complete a safety analysis and plan for the four-county region.

In the Sierra Vista MPO area the challenge to get everyone home from their journey safely is **not** the transportation infrastructure. It is us – the drivers – and the choices we make. Causes of crashes in our area include:

- Driving too fast
- Trying to do two or more things while driving
- Red light running
- Failing to yield

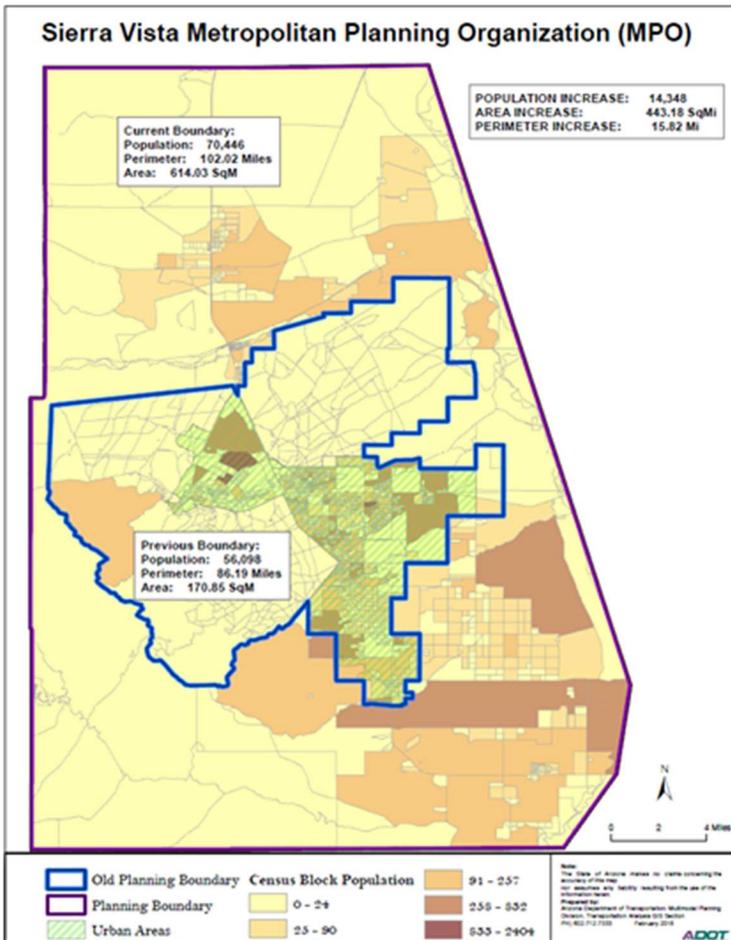
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Combine these driver behaviors with alcohol, drugs (including prescription medications), exhaustion and distractions and that leads to financial costs, travel delays, injuries and preventable fatalities.

How can you help? Take a deep breath, enjoy the pause at that red light, encourage everyone in your car to be a watchful co-pilot and **Stay Alive... Focus on Your Drive.**

Stay Alive... Focus on the Drive



SVMPO Boundary Expansion

The Sierra Vista MPO welcomed the Town of Huachuca City into the SVMPO boundaries when the MPO boundaries were expanded in January 2018. The SVMPO Board also expanded into the southwest corner of Cochise County to include the areas of Nicksville and Hereford.

State Highways 90 and 92 link this regional transportation corridor together. The SVMPO has been working with all three of their member jurisdictions and ADOT to review and update the classifications for their maintained roadways. Roads that have been approved in the federal functional classification system are eligible for federal funding that is planned and awarded through the MPO process.

Four new segments of roadways in the Town of Huachuca City were recommended to be included in the federal system which will provide future opportunities for intersection improvements and corridor studies for the Town. Sierra Vista's upgraded several roadway segments to Minor Arterials and Cochise County proposed five local road upgrades to Minor Collectors.

The federal functional classification system for the greater Sierra Vista area can be viewed on ADOT's website at: <https://www.azdot.gov/maps/functional-classification-maps>



Notes from the Administrator's Desk

When I first begin to talk to people about taking on this job with the Sierra Vista MPO I would hear over and over again: **What is the MPO?** The question would be asked in tones of curiosity or puzzlement, with skepticism and sometime suspicion. Some of my family wondered if this was a real job!

Although regional governments have been around since the early 1960's, and the Sierra Vista MPO has been in existence since 2013, what we do is not very well known. The Sierra Vista MPO is one of 12 regional agencies in Arizona: eight serve urbanized areas. The efforts of regional governments to create a seamless transportation system has been so successful that it is almost taken for granted today.

This wasn't the case when regional governments were first formed in the early 1960's. Growth of cities began to blend boundaries between jurisdictions and travelers became confused and frustrated when signs, striping or roadway widths changed abruptly along one single route. The federal government, whose interest in the roadway network was the efficient movement of freight and military between States, suggested that Cities, Towns and Counties needed to work together more closely so that federal funds spent on roadways in one city would not simply end when it reached another city.

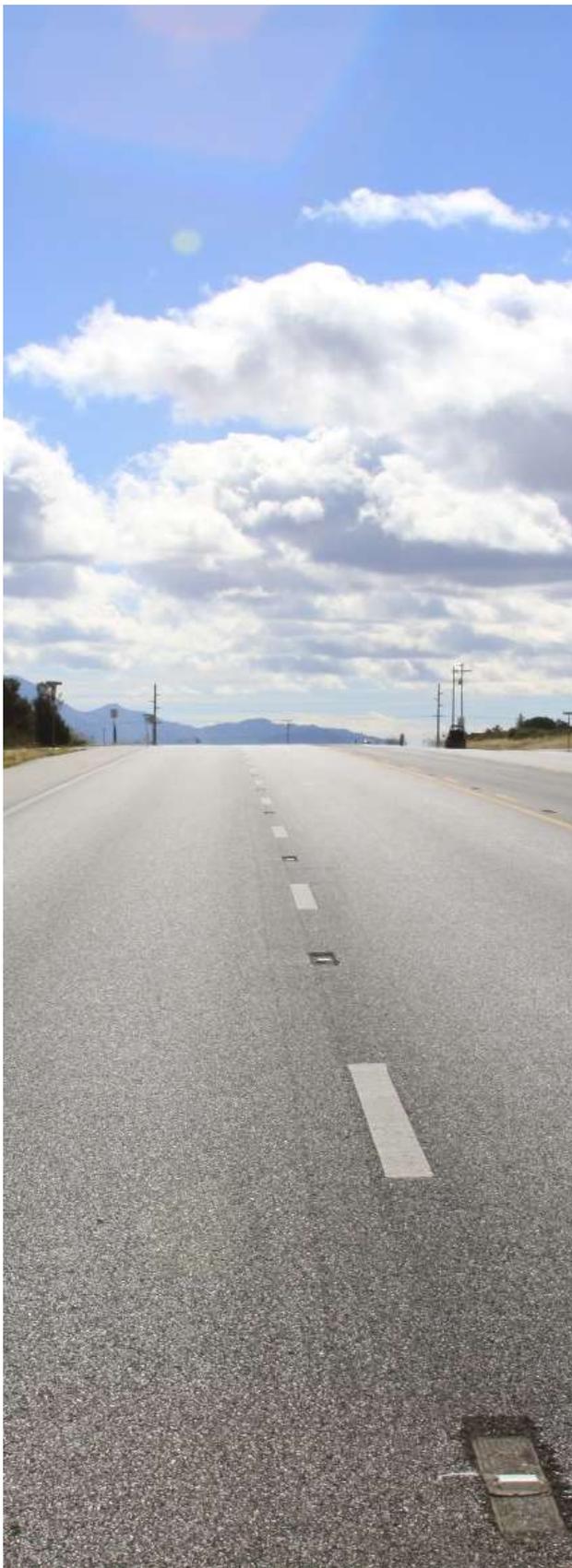
Larger urbanized areas then formed Metropolitan Planning Organizations or MPO's and began to coordinate with State Transportation Departments to standardize roadway infrastructure. The results are seen today when you travel across multiple jurisdiction boundaries: everywhere you go the same width and color of striping alerts you to no passing zones, the same color and shape of sign lets you know what the regulatory speed limit is and most roadways provide you with a smooth transition between four lanes in one city to two lanes in another.

What regional governments, like the SVMPO, do best is convene the regional table to discuss regional solutions. We bring real-time data to the table to help inform those decisions. We look to the future and begin to prepare to meet the needs of our changing and growing communities.



Karen L. Lamberton, AICP Administrator
401 Giulio Cesare Ave.
Sierra Vista, AZ 85635
Office Phone: (520) 515-8525
E-Mail: SVMPO@SierraVistaAZ.gov
For More Information: www.SVMPO.org





Public Participation is welcomed without regard to race, color, national origin, age, sex, religion, disability or family states. Persons that require special accommodations under the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) or persons who require translation services should contact the SVMPO at 520.515.8525

Upcoming Meetings

SVMPO Executive Board Meetings are held at the Sierra Vista City Hall: 1011 N. Coronado Drive, Sierra Vista, AZ

- November 15, 2018 at 3:30 p.m.
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Technical Advisory Committee Meetings are held at the Sierra Vista Public Works Bld: 401 Giulio Cesare Ave., Sierra Vista, AZ

- Next Date TBD
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Bicycle-Pedestrian Advisory Subcommittee (BPAC) Meetings are held at Vinny's Pizza on 1977 S. Frontage Rd. (Hwy 92)

- Next Date TBD
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Public Meeting notices are posted in the lobby of City of Sierra Vista's Public Works Building: Pete Castro Center, located at 401 Giulio Cesare Avenue, Sierra Vista, Arizona, 85603. This location is open to the public Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. except legal holidays.

For up to date meeting information also visit www.svmppo.org/calendar

