

NWRTPO | Northwest Regional Transportation Planning Organization
 Joint Policy & Technical Committee
 NWRTPO Meeting Minutes

Wednesday June 14, 2023
 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
 Virtual meeting executed via Microsoft Teams
 Due to COVID-19 Pandemic

ATTENDANCE:

Local & Tribal Governments	
Entity	Representative(s)
Pueblo of Acoma	Dennis Felipe Jr. – RTPO Vice-Chair
Pueblo of Laguna	Leonard Ludi
Pueblo of Zuni	Royce Gchachu, Roxanne Hughte
Navajo Nation	Margie Begay Priscilla Lee
Ramah Navajo	Dorothy Claw – RTPO Chairman
City of Grants	Don Jaramillo Shannon Devine
City of Gallup	Clyde Strain, Alicia Santiago, Robert Hamblen
Village of Milan	Linda Cooke , Denise Baca, Felix Gonzales,
Cibola County	Kaci Bustos, Joseph Baca, Judy Horacek
McKinley County	Rodney Skersick , Yvonne Tso
San Juan County	Absent (Nick Porell)
Farmington Metropolitan Planning Organization - Ex-officio	Not in attendance

New Mexico Department of Transportation (NMDOT)	
Entity	Representative(s)
RTPO Liaison	Neala Krueger
District 5	James Mexia, Amanda Nino
District 6	Bill Santiago, Michael Neely
Tribal Liaison	Ron Shutiva
DOT Central Regional Design Office	James Sanchez, Juan Archuletta,
Other NMDOT Staff / Guests	Stephanie Miller / Charles Allen – Parametrix; Joseph Gonzales, Emily Dosset, Summer Herrera – DOT; Kristie Johnson – Gallup Airport; Martina Mecurec - ?

Northwest Regional Transportation Planning Organization	
Northwest NM Council of Governments	Robert Kuipers

Tally Sheet – Attendance & Quorum

Total Full Attendance:	Member Entities:	NMDOT	RTPO	Guests (Transit)	Full Attendance Norm:	
	12	Normally 4-5: DOT Liaison, Tribal Liaison, District 5 & 6 Representatives		varies	17 - 20	
Attendance – this meeting:	Member Attendance:	NMDOT Attendance:	Staff:	Guests:	Attendance % this meeting:	TOTAL:
	9	8	1	3	100%	21

ROUTINE ITEMS:

Item #	Item
I.	Call to Order and Introductions. The meeting was called to order at 10:17 am, Dorothy Claw welcomed those in attendance, and proceeded with introductions approval of agenda and minutes. The virtual meeting was conducted via Microsoft Teams, due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
II.	Agenda. RTPO Staff provided an overview of the day’s agenda topics and Dorothy Claw – Chair called for a motion: ACTION: Leonard Ludi - Laguna motioned; Alicia Santiago - Gallup seconded adoption of the agenda All in favor – motion carried.
III.	Minutes (April 12, 2023). RTPO Staff provided time for review of minutes and there were no revisions requested, Dorothy Claw – Chair called for a motion. ACTION: Clyde Strain - Gallup motioned; Leonard Ludi – Laguna seconded adoption of the minutes. All in favor – motion carried.

ACTION ITEMS: None

Discussion Items:

item #	Item	Presenter
IV.	Review & Discuss: PFF’s that can move forward to PPF’s	Robert Kuipers, NWRTPO
BACKGROUND		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why? Every two years now COG admin. requires RTPO staff to completely clear the RTIPR and have RTPO members submit new projects, and resubmit projects already cited in the previous RTIPR. • Purpose. This is to keep projects up to date, based on local government priorities. • Discussion/Finalization. We are now moving PFF’s for projects approved to move forward into PPF’s which provide more detail around project intent. 		
CURRENT WORK		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members to generate Project Prospectus Forms (PPF’s), based on approved PFF’s to move projects forward. 		
ANTICIPATED WORK		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members to submit new and previous project PPF’s providing more detail to project intent for various RTIPR sections and forthcoming funding opportunities. 		
ATTACHMENTS		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current Project Prospectus Form • NWRTPO Member Govt. PFF Lists 		
BUDGET IMPACT		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None, but citing projects within our FFY2023-2024 Call for Projects, makes them more competitive for funding. 		
ACTION ITEM		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N/A 		

Discussion:

- Robert Kuipers indicated that 82 PFF’s were submitted from the NWRTPO members for approval from DOT District 5 & 6 to move forward to PPF’s . Most of District 5 (Northern Navajo) were approved, but only 23 were approved by DOT Dist. 6, so there are a lot more waiting for approval from DOT Dist. 6.

- Michael Neely indicated the DOT District 6 staff are reviewing PFF’s to get them approved to move forward; however there are some problems with some of our Transportation Project Fund PFF’s which they will follow up with members on. Robert Kuipers encouraged DOT District 6 staff to try and get the rest of the PFF’s approved in the next two weeks – even the TPF PFF’s as there will be time to make corrections since Project Prospectus Forms (PPF’s) are not due until August 31.

Item #	Item	Presenter
V.	<i>Present: Next Cycle for TAP, RTP, CRP, and CMAQ</i>	Robert Kuipers
BACKGROUND		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why? Members are encouraged to get a head start around completing full meeting packages for review in advance of submission deadlines. • Purpose. Help our members get started and be informed on the process and required documents for full application packages. • Discussion/Finalization. Members are encouraged to get a head-start on these application packages. 		
CURRENT WORK		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commence application packages 		
ANTICIPATED WORK		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • TAP/RTP applications for FY2024 were due March 10, 2023 – no guidance yet for 2025 applications. • CMAQ applications are typically due in Sept. – November – final deadline December 30 • Carbon Reduction Program applications for 2024+ were due March 10, 2023. 		
ATTACHMENTS		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members are encouraged to visit the NMDOT website, then go to Business Support, then to TLPA Documents and Information, then to Planning, then to RTP, TAP and CMAQ guides • There is no information available on the NMDOT website yet for Carbon Reduction Program. • These are not attached as they contain multiple pages. 		
BUDGET IMPACT		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None – but potential funding for future projects 		
ACTION ITEM		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N/A 		

Discussion:

- A new call for projects for Recreational Trail Funds is anticipated for later this summer – for FFY2025 and possibly FFY2026 funds. Other than this, a call for TAP, CRP, and CMAQ is not anticipated in the near future.

Item #	Item	Presenter
VI.	Present: I-40 Corridor Study – Project Update & Alternatives	Stephanie Miller – Parametrix Engineering
BACKGROUND		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why? I-40 has become one of the major freight trucking corridors in our nation, which is demanding for maintenance expenditures for NMDOT. Up to 10,000 trucks each 24 hr. day! • Purpose. This study will recommend improvements to I-40 thru our state, including adding lanes in some sections, addressing drainage, improve intersections and other considerations. • Discussion/Finalization. Parametrics Engineering will present the project update and recommended alternatives, and welcome additional comments from NMDOT staff. 		
CURRENT WORK		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This study is well underway – working toward completion in Fall of 2023. 		
ANTICIPATED WORK		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completion of corridor study with recommended improvements to address traffic flow. 		
ATTACHMENTS		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • I-40 Study Webinar from Parametrics, conducted on November 15, 2022. • Proposed I-40 planning projects from our region’s local governments. 		
BUDGET IMPACT		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This project won’t impact our NWRTPO budget, but could bring in millions of dollars for intersection and other improvements for the corridor in our region. 		
ACTION ITEM		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N/A 		

Discussion:

- The goals of the I-40 Study include:
 - Improve safety
 - Traffic operation and reliability
 - Bridge, drainage and pavement infrastructure improvements
 - Improving related “Intelligent Transportation Systems” (ITS)
 - Examining what infrastructure improvements are needed thru FFY 2050
- There is public concern on safety and reliability as the freight trucking volume on I-40 is heavy.
- Safety: crashes in I-40 hit a high in 2019; there are an average of 18 fatal, and 17 serious injury accidents on I-40 per year.
- Current analyzed traffic volume for average vehicles per hour on I-40 are 1200 – 1500 during the day, and 300 – 600 during the night
- Traffic growth on NM I-40 is anticipated to grow from current – 20,000, to 30,000 – 60,000 by FY 2050 (no indication if this is per month or per year).
- Parametrix did capacity analysis on I-40; there is a need to widen I-40 shoulders; and there are 30 miles without alternative routes (in the case of accidents).
- Intelligent Transportation Systems is needed along I-40 for data collection, incidents, construction zones, weather, travel time info. and freight parking / E.V. charging stations.
- Fiber Optic is needed for mp 0 – 125 along with broadband infrastructure
- Need to consider development for forthcoming electric and autonomous vehicles
- Recommended solutions and improvements pages:
 - Enhanced 2 lane – widen shoulders to 12 feet
 - Third lane where needed
 - Provide cross overs

- ITS – Intelligent Transportation Systems
- Incident management
- Alternative Routes
- I-40 construction and maintenance consideration
- Ron Shutiva: poor communication / involvement from Navajo DOT

Item #	Item	Presenter
VII.	<i>Reports, Updates, Announcements</i>	Robert Kuipers
BACKGROUND		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Why? Update RTPPO members on news, training, funding, and other items of special interest ● Purpose. Keep RTPPO members up to date on critical information from NWRTPPO and NMDOT sources 		
Informational Items		
Regional News & Updates		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● RTPPO Monthly Report, May Staff hours summary, and April Expenditures Report ● Member Reports 		
Member Special Reports:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● None this meeting 		
NMDOT Reports:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● G to G Liaison: Neala Krueger ● Tribal Liaison: Ron Shutiva ● District 6: Bill Santiago & staff; District 5: James Mexia & Amanda Nino 		
News, Training & Funding Opportunities:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● <u>FHWA Planning, Environment & Realty Reports</u>: 5/11/23 ● <u>NMDOT Govt. to Govt. Update</u>: 5/05/23, 5/31/23 ● <u>AASHTO Publications</u>: none ● <u>NMDOT / UNM-LTAP</u>: Provides a very robust collection of training opportunities – staff forward news to members as it comes out from this source – reference at ltap.unm.edu – Online courses notice forwarded to members as LTAP emails come in. ● <u>Title VI Training</u> is available to MPO’s and RTPPO’s from Lisa Neie – Civil Rights Manager for FHWA New Mexico. These trainings can be customized to address member concerns and issues for their regions, if provided to her in advance. ● <u>Email Change Notice from NMDOT</u>: All NMDOT staff emails have changed from @state.nm.us to @dot.nm.gov ● <u>USDOT Navigator-May Update</u>: 5/04/23 ● <u>USDOT – Rural EV Infrastructure Toolkit</u>: 5/08/23 ● <u>Value Capture Guidance Webinar</u>: To save \$ on projects – 5/09/23 ● <u>USDOT Discretionary Grant Opportunities</u>: 5/09/23 ● <u>Security Awareness – Scam Awareness Alert</u>: 5/11/23 ● <u>USDOT – Resources, Upcoming Events, Funding Opportunities</u>: 5/18/23 ● <u>Tribal Reminder of Transportation Project Fund Appl. deadline – May 31</u>: 5/22/23 ● <u>I-40 Corridor Study Presentation</u>: for June 14 RTPPO virtual meeting – 6/06/23 		

Members please note: none of these documents will be included in the full meeting package due to the physical size and the electronic megabyte size going forward – all of the cited documents have already been emailed in advance of the RTPPO monthly meeting to our NWRTPPO members. Some of the citations are ongoing from month to month regarding ongoing training or funding opportunities.

Discussion:

- Robert Kuipers provided his monthly report for April, his staff hours report for May, and his expenditure report for April.

- Members are reminded to stay on top of forthcoming funding opportunities; staff will do their best to keep members informed on opportunities along with submission deadlines.

Local Member Reports (<i>significant news only</i>)		By Entity
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- There were no member reports or updates provided today, due to the length of the Cost Benefit Analysis presentation from Ken Cooper of UNM-LTAP.

New news in bold

Pueblo of Acoma

- **MESA HILL BRIDGE PROJECT:** The project PS&E and EA are complete. The Pueblo is working towards finalizing the cultural clearances and right-of-way with the BIA. In addition, finalizing the land status with Tribal Leadership. Upon completion of pending items, the Pueblo will apply for Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Tribal Transportation Program (TTP) Bridge Program Funds. The Pueblo plans to utilize the On-Call Engineering Services to complete the planning and design phase to move forward with construction.
- **ON-CALL ENGINEERING SERVICES:** Contract approval in progress – will engage WH Pacific, Wilson & Co. and Sauder Miller engineering firms.
- **SP30 – PUEBLO ROAD MAINTENANCE:** LGRF Cooperative Agreement and Tribal Resolution have been signed by Pueblo leadership and sent to Bill Santiago at DOT District 6. Acoma continues to move forward with the project.
- **SP38 HAAK’U ROAD PLANNING & DESIGN (PS&E):** Project consists of a 12.3-mile-long corridor to Acoma’s original Village at the mesa. Project funded for \$2,900,000 for planning and design improvements from the FY2023 NM Transportation Project Fund (TPF). The TPF Cooperative Agreement finalized. Finalizing contract to issue NTP for fund issuance from NMDOT. The Pueblo awarded WH Pacific Engineering for design of this corridor.
- **M123 BRIDGE (SAN FIDEL CREEK BRIDGE ON SP34 FATIMA HILL ROAD) REPAIR/REPLACEMENT:** Project funded \$137,049 for design through FHWA Tribal Transportation Program Bridge Program Funding. To move forward using on-call services.
- **M124 BRIDGE (ACOMITA LAKE BRIDGE ON SP34 FATIMA HILL ROAD) REPAIR/REPLACEMENT:** Project funded \$380,000 for design through FHWA Tribal Transportation Program Bridge Program Funding. To move forward using on-call services.
- **SAFETY PROGRAM:** Awarded FHWA TTP Safety Program Funding of \$10,000 to update Transportation Safety Plan and \$475,000 for SP30 Pueblo Rd. East End (Between NM124 & I-40) Safety Re-Design.
- **SP30 PUEBLO RD. (ENTIRE ROUTE I-40 WEST):** Pueblo is seeking funding for design and reconstruction of SP30 – Pueblo Road (10.6 miles). Project is now in design. Looking for NM Transportation Project Funding for this road.
- **SKY CITY SCENIC BYWAY:** Pending Tribal Council resolution for Tribal byway designation.
- **FR4011P/SP35 SAN LORENZO ROAD:** Official notification to NMDOT Dist. 6 to discuss state-owned route drainage issues.
- **PROJECT BUNDLING:** Acoma would like to invite local, county and other tribal entities within the region to consider partnering for construction project funding, as bundling projects saves money, as Acoma has learned from the CMGC (Construction Management / General Contractor) funding.
- **ALTERNATIVE REPRESENTATIVES:** In process of selecting alternate representative.
- **LONG RANGE TRANSPORTATION PLAN:** 2022 Update Issued and posted on Acoma’s Community Development Office website.
- **ACOMA BUSINESS PARK:** Design 100% Complete. Construction UNFUNDED at an estimated \$35 million.
- **NM124 EXTENSION TO NM117:** Project on hold. Design funded through the Transportation Project Fund.

Pueblo of Zuni

- The Pueblo is working on drainage improvements along the NM53 corridor mp 15.5 to 19.5 – creating culverts and ponds.
- The Pueblo submitted an application to update their Transportation Safety Plan; and was awarded funding to update their Tribal Transportation Safety Plan in 2022; and conduct an RSA on NM53 from mp 13.5 to 18. Notice of award was received late yesterday – Feb. 7.
- NMDOT Contract #CN6101091 – Meridian Contracting working on drainage issues and retention ponds; this includes installing concrete box culverts. Asphalt paving will continue when weather permits.
- Have received FHWA Tribal Transportation Program funding for FFY22. – Prepping for construction in FY23.

- **The Pueblo Transportation Dept. will be issuing two RFP's in the near future. One is to plan, design and construct a new transportation facility to include Ashiwi Transit; and the other is for planning, design and reconstruction of BIA Route 5 – Nutria Road.**
- The Pueblo is under lock down with little administrative activity due to COVID-19 pandemic; the Pueblo has extended re-opening until sometime in the future, depending on how long COVID-19 persists.
- Bid packages for Shiwi Ts'ana Elementary School access and Z301 / NM53 intersection improvements were opened July 12 – with one bid submitted. Notice of award offered to Albuquerque Sparling Construction company for both projects combined.
- Zuni purchased a dump truck with FHWA Coronavirus funds.
- The Pueblo is looking to purchase a backup generator for the Andrew Othole Memorial Airport.
- **Zuni Transportation Dept. submitted documents to the Governors Office to fund two historical and cultural sites of significance with related road improvement projects.**
- US Dept. of Treasury set aside \$20 billion for Native American Tribes under American Rescue Plan. Zuni received it's first distribution – Road Dept. will submit road improvement project that leads to significant historical site for tourism
- Road maintenance projects continue related to flooding around the Pueblo.
- Royce is now also the Airport Manager. Receipt of FAA grant agreement for developing an Airport Master Plan for the Andrew Othole Memorial (AOM) Airport. The master plan will be developed by the Pueblo's airport consultant – Armstrong Consultant's, Inc.
- Erin Kenley, TTP Director and Brian Allen, TTP Fields Operation Manager – both from the Office of Tribal Transportation visited Zuni on August 10 and met with the Governor and Tribal Council on a number of issues. Discussed the tribal self-governance program within the US DOT and FHWA.
- The Pueblo continues to update its long-range transportation plan. The plan is now in final draft form and being put out on the Pueblo website and Facebook for public comment. The draft plan is awaiting recommendations for next steps on how to present to the public.
- The pedestrian trail project plan is now 100% complete – will move forward for FHWA approval.
- On-call A/E consultants are working on designs for Ruins Road, North/South Sandy Springs Road, Harker Circle, the intersection of Ojo Caliente/Pia Mesa and pedestrian trails. Ruins Road is now at 95% completion.
- Ongoing road maintenance around the Pueblo. This includes crews addressing mowing, culvert repairs, blading gravel or dirt roads, asphalt pothole repairs and vegetation control.
- Virtual Presentation meeting with NMDOT and WHPacific on the NM53 Drainage project being designed by by WHPacific to make improvements from MP15.5 to 19, due to undersized culvert pipes and overtopping of flood waters on NM53 (also Zuni Mainstreet). First meeting was held on October 7.
- There are demolition projects in the Pueblo for the Lemon Tree/Zuni Laundromat building and the old Zuni Water Dept. building.
- The Pueblo is undertaking construction of an RV Park.
- The Pueblo has worked with Ashiwi Transit and Gallup Express to extend transit service to the Ramah Navajo area.
- The Pueblo has engaged contractual on call engineering services for future transportation development.
- The Ashiwi transit system received a national award at the 2019 National RTAP (*Rural Transportation Assistance Program*) conference. **Ashiwi Transit received another award plaque for their service during the COVID pandemic.**
- Ashiwi Transit will resume when all safety precautionary measures have been installed on the transit vehicles. Local and Gallup services will resume on a limited basis, but only on demand or appointments. Extension to Ramah / Pinehill is temporarily on hold until further notice around COVID-19 concerns. Ashiwi Transit is now back in service. **Hope to resume transit discussions with the Ramah / Pinehill area soon.**

McKinley County

- **CR-19 improvements. CR19 – 18.6 miles of chip-sealing is now complete and striping is finished making this project almost complete; just 7 miles of fencing to go.**
- **The County's Local Government Road Fund projects for FFY2021 are now complete; working on certifications for 2022 projects at this time. LGRF Manuelito Canyon road alignment is now complete.**
- **The County Road Dept. has issued Purchase orders for a bridge on CR15 and a bridge on CR43; these bridges are now at 60% to completion.**
- **CR27 and CR61 – chipseal is ongoing.**

- The County had their ribbon cutting ceremony for Manuelito Canyon bridge replacement on September 10, 2021 – the event was well attended by State and regional legislative leaders along with President Jonathon Nez of the Navajo Nation.
- The County will benefit with \$23 million for improvements to the Carbon Coal Road intersection in Gamerco with US491, which leads to the developing Energy Logistics Park (and potential Inland Port). **This project is now complete!**
- The County has finished chip sealing Pine Haven road; will use remaining funds to finish improvements on Allison road.
- **Cousins Road and CR-1 will move into phase 2 repairs; Cousins road will get 4 miles of chip seal. CR-1 has completed 3 miles of chip-seal. Superman Canyon Road (CR43) and Old Church Rock Mine Bridge (CR15) are next projects on the list. The County Road Dept. has issued purchase orders for a bridge on CR15 and a bridge on CR43. Church Rock Mine Bridge is getting started at this time. The 2023 Transportation Project Fund has funded another Superman Canyon road – CR43 bridge at \$2,716,334.00.**
- **The County is realigning CR5 – Manuelito Canyon road – LGRF funds; has applied 4 miles of chip seal on CR-6. The alignment for this road is now complete.**
- Ongoing county-wide maintenance including blading, patching potholes, cleaning culverts, repairing bridges / guardrails, etc. The County has completed the ZMTP Milk Ranch Trail Head.

Gallup

- **Gallup Mainstreet Project – Coal Avenue Commons: The City has been funded for phase 2 from the NM Transportation Project Fund – and has been awarded \$3,500,000 from this fund to complete this project. The city commenced construction on May 2, starting with alley improvements. Intersection of Coal Ave. and 2nd Street is now complete with additional drainage structure. Phase 2 construction is now complete and working on close out paperwork. First to Second street is now complete, working on 1st Street to Coal Avenue next.**
- **East Nizhoni and West Aztec improvements are currently in design phase – East Nizhoni received news from NMDOT Dist. 6 that the City was awarded MAP funding for East Nizhoni Ave - \$900,000. Phase 2 Nizhoni Blvd. and College Drive intersection construction began on 10/17/22 and is now complete and in close-out. East Nizhoni was also awarded \$350,000 from the NM FFY2023 Transportation Project Fund. East Nizhoni phase 3 is now in construction which commenced May 31, 2023. A Transportation Project Fund from NMDOT application for phase 4 was submitted on May 31, 2023. West Aztec – meeting with property owner has been executed and now moving forward to complete design which is ongoing.**
- **West Aztec drainage legislative grant has been executed and engineering services have been awarded to begin design; notice of obligation has been submitted and approved by the state. Property owner has submitted proposal to City for utility easement – now completed and moving to complete design.**
- **Local Govt. Road Fund funded projects have completed mill and overlay for planned roads; received word from NMDOT Dist. 6 that the City was awarded funds for our next project. Working on close out paperwork and completed Coop letter of intent for 2023. Public Works is now working on the Coop mill and overlay project.**
- The City has submitted a Letter of Intent for Coop funding.
- **West Logan street repairs are being advertised**
- **2nd and 3rd Street pedestrian safety improvements RFP for design was awarded, along with 2nd and 3rd Street Quiet Zone awarded for design – this project is ongoing.**
- **CDBG RFP was awarded – working on paperwork for DFA approval. An Extension Request was sent to DFA; construction commenced on May 1, 2023.**
- **Federal Aviation Admin. application for \$5 million has been submitted for our airport taxi-way and connectors. The City has been awarded and construction began on April 11, 2022. Construction is now complete and project in close out.**

Milan

- **The Village had a ribbon cutting ceremony for a new soccer complex and is improving a baseball field.**
- **Airport road is moving forward to phase 2 and 3 for bridge replacement and road repairs in April.**
- **There has been some flooding but no major problems. Sewer system improvements are in design including a lift station. Swimming pool and water system improvements are ongoing, as well as the baseball field.**
- **Cottonwood road is in design.**

- **Working toward street improvements for Willow Drive, Elkins Road, Motel Drive and Tiejn Street**
- **Various ongoing lighting projects**
- **Need to address repair for NM605 bridge**
- **Need to address a Mill Road and Rail crossing**

Ramah

- **Dorothy Claw attended the Tribal Summit on June 7 in Albuquerque.**
- **Ramah is looking to draft an agreement with Cibola County for road maintenance.**
- **Ramah has submitted applications to repair / replace two bridges.**
- **Ramah continues work on road maintenance, cattle guards, blading dirt roads, potholes, fencing and areas needing re-construction.**
- Condolences to the community for the loss of Shane Lewis, who accomplished significant transportation development on behalf of the Ramah Navajo community.
- Ramah Navajo has filled two positions after the departure of Shane Lewis with Dorothy Claw as primary transportation developer and Tom Martine as transportation assistant – these individuals are also the primary and alternative representatives to the NWRTPO.
- **Ramah Navajo is updating their Long Range Transportation Plan at this time, and in the process of prioritizing projects. Public meeting took place January 3 . Ramah is also working on Administrative Policies and Procedures.**
- **BIA 175 is the next new project for Ramah Navajo – seeking funding at this time.**
- **Working on signage for BIA 125 and 122.**
- **Ramah has applied to the MEGA grant for improvements to BIA 125 mp. 18 – 26**
- **Ramah received a safety grant for \$300,000 which will help supply new guard rails.**
- **Looking to reconstruct BIA 145 and BIA 195**
- Completed PFF's for NM53 & BIA 125 intersection and Pine Hill school pedestrian ADA improvements.
- Some weather related road maintenance and repair going on at this time.
- **Ramah is developing RSA's for ten (10) intersections for NM53 and other tribal roads.**
- Dorothy and Tom are acclimating with ongoing Ramah transportation projects at this time and updating the Ramah Long Range Transportation Plan, completing an annual report, and looking for training opportunities.
- Acting executive director for Ramah Navajo Chapter's 638 Grants & Contract Programs issued a memorandum for employees to return back to work and follow CDC guidelines within each Chapter program RNDOT is back in operation and continues to maintain roadways.
- BIA Projects Update:
 - BIA 125 mp 18 – 24.6 – received approved design exception report for this project from FHWA and will move to finalize the project. BIA 125 MP 0 – 4.4 received approval from NNHPO on the updated Cultural Report document and Categorical Exclusion. Awaiting ROW documents for BIA 195 in Ramah Band Land to RN Realty Office. BIA 113 and 145 received final report and will review final documents with tribal officials
 - BIA 195: submitted ROW documents to RN Realty Office; **more focus on this road going forward.**
 - BIA 145 and BIA 113: Received draft report for BIA 145 and BIA 113. **More focus on BIA 145 going forward.**
- RNDOT Transportation Technician is vacant and will advertise for the position.
- Submitted grant applications for the NOFO on Tribal Transportation Program Safety Funds.
- BIA 125 striping project is complete; **BIA 125 mp 0-4 and mp12 – 24.6 are now construction ready.**
- NMDOT LGRF received all certifications and submitted a letter of disbursement. Awaiting on contractor to return signed Notice of Award for BIA 125 striping project.
- Cancelled Transportation Committee Meetings until COVID-19 Restrictions are lifted.
- Submitted road signs replacement maintenance project for 2021 LGRF cycle.
- NMDOT LGRF received some certifications and will coordinate with Utility providers. Received ROW certification and submitted letter requesting disbursement.
- Assisting with RN Community Development Department for the Navajo Nation Rural Addressing Project.
- Ongoing general maintenance for area roads, cattle guards and signage, blading and shaping, potholes and base course patching (incl. school bus routes). Cleaning and replacing roadway signs. Field fence repairs, post replacements and gate repairs.
- **Ramah Navajo has submitted a BUILD Grant application.**

Cibola County

- Cibola County has hired a new Road Superintendent by the name of Ed Salazar.
- The County is doing “blade and shape” maintenance on 84.7 miles of 14 County Roads; and a variety of other maintenance (cattle guards / culverts / sign repair / tree trimming & weed control / mowing / pot-hole patching / and minor road repairs) for 24 county roads.
- **The County has completed an emergency bypass at this time for the CR-5 Moquino bridge, and is awaiting TPF 2023 funding to repair the bridge in the future.**
- **The county continues undertaking flood damage repairs**
- **The county is working on chip sealing a variety of roads at this time.**
- **The County has commenced development of the Zuni Mountains Quartz Hill Trail.**
- ZMTP RTP trail project is funded for FFY2020 construction – working with McKinley County for trails development beginning with the Quartz Hill Trail Head. Construction will likely not proceed until FFY2021 Spring & Summer for the Cibola portion of the Zuni Mountain Recreational Trails. **Cibola County has now been cleared to be the fiscal agent for this project and will no longer need McKinley County’s assistance; trail development and construction is commencing.** Cibola, COG and NMDOT staff had a virtual internal planning meeting on Jan. 19 at 9am with Arnold from the Forest Service to discuss updated scope of work for this project. **The County has commenced work on the Trail Head project and has submitted an extension request to JoAnn Garcia at NMDOT.**
- Cibola County has submitted an RFP due March 23 for a new public safety building, and will conduct a pre-proposal meeting; six (6) construction firms have responded thus far.
- CR-18B and CR1 road / bridge projects are current priorities. CR-18B awarded LGTPF funding – LGTPF contract is complete and submitted. CR18-B – RFP closed Friday – 12/4 and are currently reviewing applications – much appreciation to JoAnn Garcia from NMDOT District 6. Two firms responded to the RFP and the Cibola Commission determined the award at their January 14 meeting. **CR18-B has commenced ROW work; drainage work is ongoing and construction for CR18-B bridge to commence in August or Sept. ; CR-1 has issued an RFP to Engineering Firms.**
- **CR-57 A is having a culvert replaced, and the County is starting on cattle guard replacements, as well as removing sand on various roads related to wind conditions.**
- Coop projects will begin soon.
- Ongoing County wide maintenance for County and Forest Roads.

Grants

- The City recently had a ribbon cutting ceremony for the pedestrian bridge on 2nd Street. **The bridge and channel are almost completed. 2nd Street Shared Path Loop has been awarded \$1.1 million in TAP funding.**
- Riverwalk trail: Design at 100% from WHPacific, Project is on hold for the time being.
- First Street phase 2 – Adams to Roosevelt: design at 100%; added a pond and lift station on Geis Street for drainage; allotted \$1.8 million from 2019 state legislature for **final phase 3 from Washington to Roosevelt which was recently awarded is now complete.** Final PS&E was scheduled for this August and project letting is scheduled for September. Total project stands at \$6.2 million. **Striping is now complete; anticipated completion coming soon. Roosevelt Bridge is now in construction.**
- 2nd street bridge out to bid for construction to commence in July – **2nd Street Channel project is now complete for Jefferson Ave. to the Rio San Jose.**
- Washington bridge replacement over 2nd Street through LGTPF funding will include a walking opportunity for High School students; project construction is underway – commenced in June. **Funding was awarded at \$750,000 for the Anderman to Sage St. portion from NM CDBG funds.**
- Lobo Canyon and Roosevelt intersection improvements are underway and ongoing. **Roosevelt Bridge is at 100% design and going out to bid soon.**

Pueblo of Laguna

- **Leonard Ludi is now the primary representative for Laguna; as Elroy Keetso has taken a job at NM Indian Affairs.**
- **The Pueblo remains under COVID restrictions, and is looking for a transportation specialist – no other major news now.**
- **The Pueblo remains closed to the public, and administration is closed until the COVID-19 Pandemic resides. For I-40 MP 111 – 117 exists are closed to the Pueblo. Access NM124 via I-40 MP108 and 117 exits.**

- Gaylord informed COG RTPO staff that the Pueblo has six official villages – not seven – staff will execute this correction going forward.
- **The Pueblo is consulting with the MRRTPO for Laguna Pueblo lands within their jurisdiction.**
- The Pueblo is pursuing an FHWA grant to develop a Pueblo-wide (all Villages / roads) Safety Plan and will be seeking data sources identifying various crash incidents, and high crash incident locations; may need assistance from the RTPO or DOT with analyzing crash data. The Pueblo has a number of State Routes, where high speeds impact upon more fatal crashes.
- NM124 Bike and Pedestrian Trail – Paraje to the Kawaika Center project is complete – working with NMDOT for close out.
- NM124 Bike and Pedestrian Trail Encinal Road to State Road 279 is complete and in close out.
- NM124 Rio San Jose to Roundabout bike & ped path: Design is complete. PS&E checklist is complete – project planned to be let February – March, 2021. **NM 124 design is complete, anticipating construction in Spring of 2022.**
- L26 Rainfall Road from Cubero Wash to Seama bridge M108: **Construction has been completed**, including a bike & ped. trail. Final audits in progress **and project is in close-out.**
- M137 bridge at Laguna Subdivision: **Construction complete and project in close out with BIA.**
- Mill, Overlay, Striping & Enhancement Projects: Construction is complete for L503 – Veterans Memorial Road, L200 Postal Postal Road and L245 Raindrop Road. **The Pueblo is developing the next phase on four BIA routes: LGRF/BIA Road Maintenance Striping Projects – phase 2 & 3: Phase 2 – L500 Mountain Ash Loop and L500 Central Park Road; Phase 3 – L540 Veterans Memorial Road and L200 Elizabeth Bender Road. No bids were received so the Pueblo is working with NMDOT to sole-source these projects.**
- **Local Govt. Road Fund: projects will go out for construction bids soon.**
- LGRF / BIA Road Maintenance Mill, Overlay & Striping Projects: Phase 2 & 3: Phase 2 – the Pueblo is working on the next phase for four BIA routes: phase 2 for L500 Mountain Ash Loop and Central Park roads. Phase 3 for L540 – Veterans Memorial Road and L200 Elizabeth Bender Road. **Contract amendments submitted and received. Local Govt. Road Fund and trail projects to commence soon.**
- NM 124 Roundabout: The repairs to the roundabout are being coordinated by NMDOT, no start date has been determined. **NM124 Road Diet has received an extension and is in final design for Rio San Jose to the Roundabout (6100764 project control no.) – this includes a bike and pedestrian addition.**
- L24 Rainfall Road: design changed to two phases, **Ph-1 Road & Trail at final 100% design, and in ROW review. The Concrete Box Underpass is now eliminated, and DOT Dist. 6 proposes to build an I-40 bridge over L24 road.** Construction funded for \$1.9 million from the LGTPF fund!
- L26 Deer Dancer Road: **at 100% design, working on ROW amendments and E.A.**
- L243 Acorn Road design: completed 100% design and PS&E review from the BIA. **Construction to begin in the Spring.**
- M154 Paguete Wash Bridge: **PER is complete – design phase will commence later this year.**
- M108 San Jose River Bridge-Seama: **PS&E, and ROW complete; EA, FONSI and NOI are in progress. Bridge is now at 100% design.**
- L248 Bluejay Road and L248 Blue Star Loop: **Design is in progress now at 30%. PER report is now in progress to include ROW review.**
- Pueblo’s Safety Plan: **Plan is now complete – close out letter sent to BIA.**
- NMDOT I-40 Safety Project: The Pueblo met with NMDOT on March 3. **Design is at 100%; Construction by MSCI is ongoing on the east bound lanes from MM112 – 116..**
- The Pueblo has completed L26 Rainfall Road along with two trail projects.

Navajo Nation – Northern Agency

- **New Navajo Nation Leadership in Administrative and Legislative branches. Garrett Silversmith will remain in charge of NDOT.**
- **NDOT has completed \$170 million in projects in the past seven (7) years.**
- **NDOT will be meeting with the Hopi leaders on mutual road projects sometime soon.**
- **Navajo DOT is updating their Long Range Transportation Plan at this time.**
- **Local Govt. Road Fund projects will commence implementation soon for both Eastern and Northern Navajo.** Priscilla Lee – NDOT is working on extensions for FFY2019 projects. 2018 projects are complete at this time.
- **Northern and Eastern** – currently updating regional road routes to present on Feb. 22 to the Navajo Council. Also updating Chapters on BIA Road Inventory to help fund 15 mile regional routes maintenance.

Navajo Nation – Eastern Navajo

- **Edwin Begay is the Senior Planner for Eastern Navajo indicated that NDOT is now updating Chapter routes and will follow up with Chapters for resolutions and inventory training.**
- Emergency repair work is ongoing for road repairs related to heavy Monsoon rainfall. Busy fixing Chapter access roads – primarily in Arizona and now in New Mexico.
- **Recently Arlando Teller – USDOT met with Anthony Dimas and Billy Moore to discuss Navajo roads.**
- Working on TTIP projects across the Navajo Nation.
- Providing Chapters technical assistance for ingress and egress – including the BIA and NM / AZ DOT. The BIA will provide road inventory training to NDOT.
- **Navajo Transit is now under Navajo DOT.**
- NDOT is also gearing up for school bus route improvements and asking route maps from the various Navajo Nation schools. **NDOT is completing School Bus Route mapping at this time. There is currently much concern around school bus routes and bridges which buses cannot cross.**
- **Transportation Project Fund project application was approved by DOT for the west Tsayatoh Road in Eastern Navajo at \$2,450,000.**
- NDOT is meeting with Chapters around regional priorities and funding; **Iyanbito bridge request remains a priority around significant rail crossing delays (especially around emergency response concerns).**
- There are concerns with overgrazing, along with dust storms and sand on roadways – NDOT will present to NM Indian Affairs on these concerns.
- For both Northern and Eastern Navajo there have been major road washouts due to flooding, which NDOT is addressing as best they can. NDOT staff will also be undertaking BIA Road Inventory training.
- **NDOT is asking Chapters for new projects, and follow up with Chapters on Capital Outlay.**
- **At this time, the Navajo DOT has no representatives to the NWRTPPO other than Margie Begay – they are working to identify new representatives for Northern, Eastern and Ft. Defiance Agencies.**

Proposed New Roadway Lighting Projects have no Planning, Designing or Construction funding, but the respective Chapters will be seeking funds to begin Road Safety Assessments, Design, and Construction: All these projects will be added to RTIPR for future funding of the projects.

- Smith Lake Chapter- Seeking RSA studies and street lighting at Hwy 371 & N49
- Crownpoint Chapter- Seeking RSA studies and street lighting at N9 & Hwy 371 intersection
- Becenti Chapter- Seeking RSA studies & Street lighting at Highway 371 & N9
- Coyote Canyon Chapter- Street lighting at Intersections of Highway 491 and N9, Milepost 15-15.5
- Whiterock Chapter- Seeking RSA & Street lighting at Highway 371 & store junction, chapter access roads
- Standing Rock Chapter- Seeking RSA & Street lighting at N9 & Chapter access road intersection.
- Little Water Chapter (Eastern)- Seeking RSA & Street lighting at Highway 371 and N7119
- Mexican Springs Chapter- Completing RSA, and seeking street lighting at Highway 491 & N30
- Naschitti Chapter- Completing RSA, and seeking street lighting at Highway 491 & Bus turnaround MP 32
- Tohatchi Chapter- Completing RSA and seeking street lighting at Highway 491 Milepost 22-24
- Twin Lakes Chapter- Completing RSA, and seeking street lighting at Highway 491 & Chapter access road/school access road, Milepost 13 – 13.5 and other lighting at Highway 491 & Giant store/Johnson road, Milepost 9.8 – 10.3

**New Mexico Department of Transportation Reports
(significant news only)**

RTPO Liaison (Neala Krueger)
Tribal Liaison (Ron Shutiva)
District 5 (James Mexia, Stephanie Medina)
District 6 (JoAnn Garcia; Bill Santiago)

Multimodal Planning & Programs Bureau – Neala Krueger

- **Quality Assurance Reviews:** were forthcoming against a May 31 deadline – QAR is complete for the NWRTPO.
- **Upcoming news & funding:** FHWA Urban Area Boundaries, and USDOT Safe Streets for All funding is forthcoming
- **DOT Construction & Civil Rights Bureau reminds that ADA Transition Plans and Title VI Plans are due Sept., 15, 2023.**
- **JoAnn Garcia requested member comments by June 15 for the Urban Adjusted Boundaries – send to Joseph Moriarty.**
- **NMDOT has interviewed for Planning Liaisons for southern NM and Northern – mid region NM – Neala looking forward to their assistance.**
- **New Cradle to Grave training will be required for local governments to receive federal funding!!**

NMDOT Tribal Liaison – Ron Shutiva

- **Ron is trying to meet with new tribal legislators and engage with DOT District staff.**
- **Ron encourages RTPO members to apply for NMDOT Transportation Project Funding.**
- **Ron reminds that the annual Tribal Summit will take place July 5-6 at the Inn of the Mountain Gods at Mescalero Apache.**
- **Reference Neala’s announcement around Cradle to Grave training (above).**
- **There is concern around litter and trash along I-40 intersection within the Pueblo of Laguna area.**
- **A corridor study is under consideration for I-40 from Arizona to Albuquerque – this will include consideration toward developing three lanes for this highway in each direction, given the truck freight traffic. Virtual Public meeting took place April 25 at 6:00 pm. Ron will be following up with Tribal entities for recommendations.**
- **Ron continues to work on engaging tribes around state corridors and is seeking help from regional media.**
- **Justin Reese is the new Cabinet Secretary for NMDOT.**
- **There will be a session on I-40 improvements with NDOT.**
- **Ron recommends phasing projects due to increasing costs**
- **House Memorial 13 is executed for a study on the Ramah area Wolf Sanctuary Road for improvements.**
- **NM 118 drainage study request from Mark Freeland – Navajo Tribal Council.**
- **Iyanbito Chapter is requesting a bridge over the BNSF Rail Line. (Another consideration would be extending a paved road west to the Church Rock bridge – might cost less).**
- **Ron is considering setting up quarterly tribal meetings with the DOT Districts, with consideration toward priority tribal projects.**
- **Ron reminds members to submit monthly reports for their Capital Outlay and Tribal Infrastructure projects.**
- **There are drainage concerns for Rt. 66 – adjacent to I-40 at the Ft. Wingate bridge.**
- **Ron reminded members to pay attention to the “Buy America” guidelines. Our region did well for this round of TPF funds.**
- **Ron reminded members to stay on top of funding opportunities – with \$ billions forthcoming – remember to prepare for environmental requirements (which are time consuming) for this funding.**
- **Shiprock Bridge replacement is being sought by Rep. Charles-Newton and under consideration with the Feds and Daryl Bradley from NDOT. Shiprock Chapter supports this project (but not critical at this time).**
- **Ron is now on the LTAP Board.**
- **Hoping to push for NM64 projects and NM491 north of Shiprock projects; along with the Hogback rockslide mitigation on US491.**
- **An NM264 Corridor session is forthcoming for Yatahey to Window Rock.**
- **A statewide Tribal Summit will take place at Mescalero Apache July 5-6.**
- **Concern that the NDOT is not involved with the NM I-40 studies.**
- **There’s a new Indian Highway Safety Grant out from the BIA.**
- **Reminding members to keep on top of deadlines for ICIP, TIF, and LGRF.**
- **Transportation Project Fund: better to phase then have a shortfall on funding for proposed projects.**
- **A national broadband project is establishing a broadband corridor along I-40, and will involve tribal discussion with Pueblos of Laguna and Acoma and Navajo Nation.**
- **Ron is encouraging tribal members to pursue bridge funding.**
- **Ron reminds tribal members to pursue support and related letters of support from state and national legislators.**

- NM118 drainage analysis project is finally in progress as the Navajo Council is working on agreements with the local governments in the region of the study between Churchrock and Iyanbito; **need coordination with NDOT.**
- Ron reported on the NM118 drainage analysis that took place between the Iyanbito and Ft. Wingate I-40 intersections at previous meetings. Ron indicated he feels that NM118 drainage issues remain unresolved to this day (in spite of two studies!) and the Navajo Nation DOT remains non-responsive!

NMDOT District 5 – James Mexia, **Amanda Nino**

- WHPacific is being contracted for a study on needed road and intersection improvements on US 64 – MP 0 – 20 (which includes the Shiprock School Zone). This project will be divided into two phases funded separately and referencing the District 5 HSIP plan for 2021 including a) primary / major Chapter or community intersections from Shiprock to the Arizona border and b) the Shiprock School Zone.
- The NM371 and N36 intersection near Northern Edge Casino is at 60% design; need ROW clearance / easement from NDOT.
- D-5 staff are managing project proposals for the 2021 Local Government Road Fund, and have received awards from the DOT General Office in Santa Fe for the next fiscal year.
- **Work is pending for NDOT Capital Outlay and N.O.O. – Please contact DOT District 5 SOON!!! Remember that Capital Outlay requires monthly report updates. Amanda encouraged RTPO members to provide Capital Outlay (CPMS) updates or the funding can be reverted.**
- **Watch out for funding deadlines! – Local Govt Road Fund agreements are due June 30 – close out previous projects by June 30, 2023. Get your Transportation Project Fund agreements in!**

NMDOT District 6 – **Bill Santiago, Michael Neely**

- **DOT District 6 staff are working to complete approval of NWRTPPO PFF's.**
- **With a lot of local govt. turnover including RTPO members, staff training may be needed to bring new staff with transportation focus up to speed.**
- **Bill reminded RTPO members that all NMDOT staff have new emails as: dot.nm.gov**
- **Bill reminded that MAP and LGRF agreements are due – amendments are due 60 days in advance!**
- **Interviews are underway to replace Clayton Garner who has left DOT Dist. 6.**
- **Local Govt. Road Fund** – as Stephanie from District 5 mentioned, the 5 certifications are also required before LGRF projects are considered construction ready. Keep District 6 informed on progress – the time is now critical to request an extension amendment as previously funded LGRF cycle is in close out! Extension requests are due by October 31 (including a resolution)! **The new LGRF call for projects has a March 15 deadline.**
- **Bill Santiago encourages RTPO members to pay attention to application deadlines around forthcoming funding. Also, be aware of staff changes at NDOT, NMDOT, and local governments.**
- **The FY2023 Transportation Project Fund applications must include a supporting resolution.** DOT District 6 has provided a template. Request a match waiver ASAP – due end of September.
- **Get signed agreements to DOT Dist. 6 soon, including supporting resolutions.**
- **Keep DOT District 6 staff informed on progress for the Transportation Project Fund. 5 certifications takes time – try to get these executed during this Winter season so you are construction ready in the Spring!!**
- **Bill reminded RTPO members that the MAP funding proposals will be due soon.**
- Mike Neely is on board with NMDOT District 6 to assist the RTPO's participating in the District 6 region – include Mr. Neely on all communication.
- Mr. Clayton Garner will fill JoAnn Garcia's former position at the District. Reminding members to remind others that traffic safety is important in construction areas.
- Lisa Vega is now the Director for DOT District 6, as Larry Maynard has retired.
- For Local Government Road Fund projects – the District needs certifications for all projects – many RTPO members are not following LGRF guidance for project development and are trying to close out projects without having reported progress to the DOT or following what the program requires – this could jeopardize funding.

Reminder: NMDOT will have a new email: staff member@dot.nm.gov.

NEW BUSINESS/OPEN FLOOR: MEMBERS & GUESTS (5-minute limit) - None

ANNOUNCEMENTS & NEXT MEETING: No announcements – **next meeting July 12, 2023 – virtual meeting via Microsoft Teams**

ADJOURNMENT (11:45 pm) Dennis Felipe – Pueblo of Acoma motioned; and **Alicia Santiago - Gallup** seconded for adjournment - motion carried by acclamation.

MEETING ACTIONS:

Staff:

- **Transportation Project Fund Internal Deadlines:** Implementation – complete – all proposed projects have been approved and are now authorized to move forward. **A new TPF Call for Projects has been issued for FFY2023. RTPO members have completed 2023 TPF application packages, staff have submitted to NMDOT and seven (7) projects were approved to move forward for the NWRTPO (Grants, Acoma, McKinley, Gallup, Cibola, Milan, Eastern Navajo).**

MEMBERS:

- **Members are encouraged to review your respective sections in these minutes and report to RTPO staff on which portions / bullet sentences can be eliminated as no longer pertinent or completed, as these sections make the minutes incredibly lengthy!!**
- **NMDOT:** Remind Staff and RTPO Members of impending deadlines for various projects and deliverables.