Northwest Regional Transportation Planning Organization (NWRTPO)

Joint Policy & Technical Committee

Meeting Minutes
Wednesday June 10, 2026
10:00am – 12:00pm
Virtual Meeting | Microsoft Teams

ATTENDANCE:

Tribal & Local Public Agencies (T/LPAs)

Agency	Primary Member	Alternate Member
Pueblo of Acoma	**Raymond Concho – RTPO Chair**	**Nadine Kowice**
Pueblo of Laguna	**Jolette Arietta**	Romulo Lastreto
Pueblo of Zuni	Royce Gchachu	Roxanne Hughte
Navajo Nation	Amanda Tolino, Eastern	Priscilla Lee, NDOT
	ShaQuilla Yazzie, Ft. Defiance	
	Regina Martinez, Eastern	
Ramah Navajo	Dorothy Claw	Michael Eriacho
City of Grants	**Nadine Jiron**	Shannon Devine
City of Gallup	Keegan MacKenzie-Chavez	**Alicia Santiago**
Village of Milan	Denise Baca	Gabrielle Gonzales
Cibola County	**Linda Cooke**	**Joseph Baca**
McKinley County	**Rodney Skersick**	**Yvonne Tso**
San Juan County	Nick Porell	Vacant
Farmington MPO – Ex-officio	Peter Koeppel	Vacant

New Mexico Department of Transportation (NMDOT)

Entity	Representative(s)
RTPO Liaison	Samuel Jensen
District 5	**Sean Brady**, Amanda Nino
District 6	James Martinez, **Bill Santiago, Kyle Slim**
Tribal Liaison	**Angelica Trujillo**
DOT Central Regional Design Office	James Sanchez, Juan Archuletta
Other NMDOT Staff / Guests	**Crystal Macias, NMDOT - D5** **Joseph Gonzales, NMDOT - D6** **Brian Hepting, Pueblo of Acoma** **Shania Shroulote, Pueblo of Acoma** **Jayden Weist, DFA**

Northwest Regional Transportation Planning Organization	
Northwest NM Council of Governments	**Brandon Howe, Interim**

Tally Sheet – Attendance & Quorum

Total Full Attendance:	T/LPAs	NMDOT	RTPO	Full Attendance Norm:	Guests	
	11	4: DOT Liaison, Tribal Liaison, District 5 & 6 Representatives	1	16	varies	
Attendance – this meeting:	**T/LPAs**	**NMDOT Attendance:**	**RTPO**	**Attendance % this meeting**	**Guest**	**Total Attendees**
	7 T/LPAs *[6 - Primary 1 - Alternate]*	4	1	75%	5	17

ROUTINE ITEMS:

Item #	Item
I.	**Call to Order and Introductions.** Meeting was called to order at **10:07**am, **Chairman Raymond Concho Jr., Pueblo of Acoma,** welcomed those in attendance, and proceeded with introductions approval of agenda and minutes. The meeting was conducted **virtually**.
II.	**Agenda: Chairman Raymond Concho Jr., Pueblo of Acoma,** provided an overview of the day's agenda topics and called for a motion: **ACTION: Nadine Jiron, City of Grants, motioned; Linda Cooke, Cibola County, seconded** adoption of the agenda; all in favor – motion carried unanimously.
III.	**Minutes (February 11, 2026): Chairman Raymond Concho Jr., Pueblo of Acoma,** provided time for review of minutes. **Chairman Raymond Concho Jr., Pueblo of Acoma,** called for a motion. **ACTION: Linda Cooke, Cibola County, motioned; Alicia Santiago, City of Gallup seconded** the adoption of the minutes. All in favor – motion carried unanimously.

ACTION ITEMS:

item #	Item	Presenter
IV.	**NWRTPO FFY2027 – 2028 Regional Work Program Approval**	**Brandon Howe, RTPO**

BACKGROUND

- **Why?** The NWRTPO in partnership with NMDOT engages in a Cooperative Agreement to operate the Regional Transportation Planning Organization. Part of the agreement process is to develop a 2-year Regional Work Program (RWP).
- **Purpose:** The purpose of the presentation is to showcase the proposed NWRTPO RWP which will cover a two-year period which includes FFY2027 – 2028. The RWP includes tasks that may be completed by the RTPO Program Manager during this period.

CURRENT WORK

- Work Program Development and Coordination with NMDOT

ANTICIPATED WORK

- Execution of Cooperative Agreement and Implementation of RWP

ATTACHMENTS

- FFY2027 – 2028 Regional Work Program & NWNMCOG Cost Allocation Plan: https://www.nwnmcog.org/uploads/1/2/8/7/12873976/ffy2027-2028_regional_work_program_and_budget_final.pdf

BUDGET IMPACT

- $112,500 (annual budget for the RTPO)

ACTION ITEM

- Review and approve the FFY2027 – 2028 Regional Work Program

Discussion: Brandon Howe, Interim Program Manager presented the Proposed FFY2027-2028 Regional Work Program to the Joint Policy & Technical Committee. Mr. Howe read through each function and task and provided insight into the proposed activities within the work program. No members had any questions regarding the proposed amendment.

ACTION: Chairman Raymond Concho Jr., Pueblo of Acoma motioned to approve the FFY2027-2028 Regional Work Program; **Linda Cooke, Cibola County, motioned; Alicia Santiago, City of Gallup seconded**; motion carried unanimously.

DISSCUSSION/PRESENTATION ITEMS:

item #	Item	Presenter
V.	**NM DFA Federal Match Program**	**Jayden Weist, DFA**

BACKGROUND

- **Why?** The New Mexico Legislature created a program to support State Agencies and Local Governments meet match funding requirements to leverage federal grant programs.
- **Purpose:** The purpose of the presentation is introduce the RTPO membership to the program to inform members about the program requirements and induce opportunities for federal transportation grants.

CURRENT WORK

- None

ANTICIPATED WORK

- DFA Match Fund Application Support

ATTACHMENTS

- Presentation from DFA: https://www.nwnmcog.org/uploads/1/2/8/7/12873976/nm_match_fund_short_deck.pdf

BUDGET IMPACT

- None

ACTION ITEM

- None

Discussion: Jayden Weist from the New Mexico Department of Finance & Administration presented the Federal Match Program and how it can be leveraged to support transportation needs in Northwest New Mexico. After the presentation, Jayden responded to questions regarding utilization of the match fund, project implementation grant and federal compliance offset grant.

item #	Item	Presenter
VI.	**NWRTPO Transportation Project Fund Application Recap**	**Brandon Howe, RTPO**

BACKGROUND

- **Why?** The NMDOT held its annual 'Call for Projects' for the Transportation Project Fund. The NWRTPO develops an internal procedure to support the application development and submission process.
- **Purpose:** The purpose of this item to recap the process, inform members of submitted applications and discuss areas of potential improvements for next year's cycle.

CURRENT WORK

- Monitor NMDOT Transportation Commission Meeting

ANTICIPATED WORK

- None

ATTACHMENTS

- None

BUDGET IMPACT
• None
ACTION ITEM
• None

Discussion: Brandon Howe, Interim Program Manager, provided a recap of the NWRTPO TPF application and verbally listed the applicants that successfully submitted applications for consideration. Mr. Howe also provided the total requested amount from the region including the total match amount committed. Mr. Howe explained that while the NWRTPO had provided ample time to prepare for the application deadline, some members approached the RTPO about projects late. These projects were determined to coordinate their own consultation meeting with NMDOT. Mr. Howe explained that a few applications were not submitted as they did not include all required components and were not updated by the T/LPA prior to the deadline.

Raymond Concho Jr., Chair from the Pueblo of Acoma asked the RTPO and NMDOT for an anticipated date for award notification. NMDOT District 6 representatives provided information on the timeline including District review and transportation commission schedules.

REPORTS:

Item	Presenter
Reports, Updates, Announcements	**Brandon Howe, RTPO**

BACKGROUND
• **Why?** Update RTPO members on news, training, funding, and other items of special interest • **Purpose.** Keep RTPO members up to date on critical information from NWRTPO and NMDOT sources
Informational Items
RTPO News & Updates • RTPO supported multiple applications to the NMDOT for Transportation Project Fund • RTPO developed the FFY2026-2027 Regional Work Program and submitted to NMDOT for review and approval. • RTPO staff supported the McKinley Railroad Crossing Elimination initiative • RTPO staff supported the Gallup-McKinley TradePort Partnership with Autonomous Vehicle Testing Initiative
Local Member Reports: • See member reports below
NMDOT Reports: • See NMDOT reports below
News, Training & Funding Opportunities: • None

Pueblo of Acoma

- **ROAD REHABILITATION (OTHER) PROJECT:** NMDOT FY 2026 LGRF funds for $30,172 was approved. School bus stops and signage will be addressed.
- **SP 38 HAAK'U ROAD PLANNING & DESIGN PROJECT:** The NMDOT TPF-funded design project is 100% complete. Remaining funds will be returned to NMDOT.
- **SP 38 HAAK'U ROAD CONSTRUCTION PROJECT PHASE IA:** Phase IA construction funding was approved by the New Mexico Indian Affairs Department (NM IAD) Tribal Infrastructure Fund (TIF), Congressional Direct Spending, and FHWA Tribal Transportation Program. Bid documents will be released by Summer 2026.
- **SP 30 PUEBLO ROAD (ENTIRE ROUTE):** Pueblo received funding for the SP 30 Pueblo Road (10.4 miles) Design Project. Funding was approved by NM IAD TIF. NV5 is the selected Road Design Contractor. Design is ongoing.
- **MESA HILL BRIDGE PRECONSTRUCTION PROJECT:** WHPacific completed design plan updates and environmental assessment. The Data Recovery Plan Implementation Project field work was completed in January 2025; a final report is pending.

- **MESA HILL BRIDGE CONSTRUCTION PROJECT:** The Mesa Hill Bridge Construction application was submitted and approved by FHWA for $101 million. Bid documents are being finalized.
- **M123 BRIDGE DESIGN PROJECT (ACOMA CREEK BRIDGE ON SP 34 FATIMA HILL ROAD):** Funded for $137,049 from the FHWA TTP Bridge Program. KLJ Construction was awarded the design contract, and the project is 95% complete.
- **M124 BRIDGE DESIGN PROJECT (ACOMITA LAKE BRIDGE ON SP 34 FATIMA HILL ROAD):** Funded for $380,000 from the FHWA TTP Bridge Program. KLJ Construction was awarded the design contract, and the project is 95% complete.
- **SP 30 PUEBLO ROAD SECTIONS 110 AND 120 (EAST END FROM I-40 UNDERPASS to NM 124):** Design is ongoing with Wilson and Company. Road design plans are 100% complete. The construction funding request will be submitted in the summer of 2026.

Pueblo of Zuni

- Not present

McKinley County

- Superman Canyon: Project is complete complete
- **Pindale Rainbow Trail:** LGRF Project under construction, scheduled to be completed mid summer.
- **Mentmore Extension:** Project is still seeking clearances from NMDOT and is anticipated to start in July
- **New Mexico Association of Counties**: conference will be in Mckinley County this year. McKinley County is hosting.
- **Equipment Rodeo**: McKinley County will host the equipment rodeo for the NMAC conference. Rodeo will be held at Red Rock Park.
- **RTPO Meeting:** August meeting will be in McKinley County

City of Gallup

- No report

Milan

- Not present

Ramah Navajo

- Not present

Cibola County

- NMDOT Co-Ops: The following project locations have been completed using FY23 & 24 funds. Fog Seal completed with Cibola County funds March 2026
  - Moquino-La Joya Loop
  - Golden Acres Ln.
  - Plano Colorado Frontage Rd.
  - Cemetery Road (Bluewater)
  - Robert's Rd.
  - Plano Colorado Rd.
  - N. Castillos Rd.
  - Encinal Rd.
  - Lobo Creek Rd.
  - Marquez Rd.
  - Cantina Rd.
- Marquez Rd.: Work is complete to repair downstream bridge/culverts
- Pie Town Rd.: Has be reshaped and base course and millings have been spread to make the road more user friendly.
- Working with the NWCOG to receive Capital Outlay funding to allow us to chip seal Pie Town Rd.C41 and Pinehill Rd C34

- FY 23 & 24 funding has been completed and closed.
- All certifications have been received for the FY25 Co-Op funding.
- Received certifications for utilities -for the FY26 funding
- Continuing with normal road maintenance.

Grants

- **2nd St. Shared Loop** overall trail construction is complete. Following up on DOT punch list items. Close out meeting with NMDOT scheduled for 6/17.
- **Washington Ave:** Roadway construction is complete, trail is complete. Roadway repair has been done, final striping, gutter complete.
- **Sakelares Blvd.** In design phase. Engineer is working with Tierra Right of Way on property acquisition needed for widening of the roadway and trail.
- **Nimitz Ave** Project construction has begun. Phase 1 water and sewer in place. Curb, gutter and drainage from E. Sage to Truman.
- **Anderman Bridge** is in 30% design for roadway. Working with Wilson & DOT to resolve unforeseen land conflicts.
- **E. Roosevelt** working with Wilson and Co on alignment study. Environmental services and assessment to begin.
- **Gunderson Davis** 90% design 30% water/wastewater. Working with property owner to acquire a small portion of land for lift station placement.

Pueblo of Laguna

- No report

Navajo Nation

- No report

New Mexico Department of Transportation Reports ***(significant news only)***	RTPO Liaison (Samuel Jensen) Tribal Liaison (Angelica Trujillo) District 5 (Sean Brady, Crystal Macias, Amanda Nino) District 6 (James Martinez, Bill Santiago, Kyle Slim)

Multimodal Planning & Programs Bureau – Samuel Jensen

- Not Present

NMDOT District 5 – Sean Brady, Crystal Macias, Amanda Nino

- Would like to work with the RTPO to get more TPF applications submitted within the NWRTPO portion of NMDOT District 5. Willing to support outreach to Navajo Chapters.

NMDOT District 6 – Bill Santiago, Kyle Slim

- Transportation Project Fund applications will be reviewed internally by the District Engineer and recommendations will be forwarded to the Secretary for final approval. TPF awards are typically announced at the August or September Transportation Commission meeting. RTPO members will be notified as soon as agenda is posted.
- District 6 will like to work with the RTPO to develop a more defined timeline to ensure no last minute reviews are needed. Many came after the deadline.

NMDOT Tribal Liaison – Angelica Trujillo

- Transportation Safety Summit is being coordinated and is scheduled for September 2026. There will be a call for presentations. NMDOT encourages participation in the summit to improve safety statewide.

NEW BUSINESS/OPEN FLOOR: MEMBERS & GUESTS (5-minute limit) –

- No new business

ANNOUCEMENTS & NEXT MEETING: Next JPTC meeting will be held August 12, 2026 @ 207 W. Hill Avenue, Gallup, NM 87301 (unless otherwise determined or virtual via Microsoft Teams)

ADJOURNMENT:

ACTION: Chairman Raymond Concho Jr., RTPO Chairman called for a motion to adjourn the meeting at **11:41 AM, Linda Cooke, Cibola County motioned; Alicia Santiago, City of Gallup seconded**. All in favor – motion carried.