# Northwest Regional Transportation Planning Organization (NWRTPO)

## Joint Policy & Technical Committee

Meeting Minutes
Wednesday August 12, 2026
10:00am – 12:00pm
McKinley County Conference Center
207 W. Hill Avenue, Gallup, NM 87301

### 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** | Tiffany Lasater |
| 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, Crystal Macias** |
| District 6 | **Bill Santiago, Kyle Slim, Joseph Gonzales** |
| Tribal Liaison | **Angelica Trujillo** |
| DOT Central Regional Design Office | James Sanchez, Juan Archuletta |
| Other NMDOT Staff / Guests | **Evan Williams, Executive Director**<br>**Esteban Alonzo, Planner**<br>**Hanna Youngblut, NMDOT Hazmat**<br>**Charlene Johnson, Navajo DOT**<br>**Marco Sells, Navajo DOT**<br>**Martin McBride, Pueblo of Acoma**<br>**Kathleen Clemons, Pueblo of Acoma**<br>**Casey McElroy, Kimley-Horn** |

| Northwest Regional Transportation Planning Organization | |
|---|---|
| Northwest NM Council of Governments | **Brandon Howe, Interim Program Manager** |

**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** |
| | 8 T/LPAs *[6 - Primary 2 - Alternate]* | 3 | 1 | 75% | 8 | 29 |

## ROUTINE ITEMS:

| Item # | Item |
|---|---|
| I. | **Call to Order and Introductions.** Meeting was called to order at **10:06**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: Interim Program Manager Brandon Howe, requested that Item IV. Formal Amendment #3 can be removed from the agenda based on feedback from NMDOT Planning Bureau recommendations.<br>**ACTION: Alicia Santiago, City of Gallup, motioned; Amanda Tolino, Navajo DOT seconded** adoption of the agenda with the removal of item IV. ; 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.<br>**ACTION: Amanda Tolino, Navajo DOT, 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 Formal Amendment #3 – Removed from Agenda** | **Brandon Howe, RTPO** |
| **BACKGROUND** | | |
| • **Why?**<br>• **Purpose:** | | |
| **CURRENT WORK** | | |
| • | | |
| **ANTICIPATED WORK** | | |
| • | | |
| **ATTACHMENTS** | | |
| • | | |
| **BUDGET IMPACT** | | |
| • | | |
| **ACTION ITEM** | | |
| • Removed from Agenda | | |

**Discussion:** Item not presented as it was requested to remove from the agenda per Interim Program Manager Brandon Howe.

**ACTION: None**

| item # | Item | Presenter |
|---|---|---|
| V. | **NWRTPO Bylaws Reauthorization** | **Brandon Howe, RTPO** |

**BACKGROUND**

- **Why?** The NWRTPO is an organization of transportation representatives from Local and Tribal public agencies to perform transportation related planning and development for the region. The quasi-governmental nature of the RTPO requires the organization to develop, approve and reauthorize Bylaws on a regular basis.
- **Purpose:** Bylaws are a set of written rules that establish the internal management of the RTPO and provides guidance to the Joint Policy & Technical Committee as well as the RTPO Program Manager and the Northwest New Mexico Council of Governments.

**CURRENT WORK**

- None

**ANTICIPATED WORK**

- None

**ATTACHMENTS**

- FY2027 NWRTPO FFY2027 Bylaws:

**BUDGET IMPACT**

- None

**ACTION ITEM**

- ACTION: **Nadine Jiron, City of Grants**, motioned; **Regina Martinez, Navajo DOT** seconded the reauthorization of NWRTPO Bylaws for Federal Fiscal Year 2027. All in favor – motion carried unanimously.

**Discussion:** No discussion

| item # | Item | Presenter |
|---|---|---|
| VI. | **NWRTPO Open Meetings Act Resolution** | **Brandon Howe, RTPO** |

**BACKGROUND**

- **Why?** Per state regulations, the NWRTPO must approve an Open Meetings Act Resolution to provide the organizations acceptance to follow the Open Meetings Act [NMDA 10-15-4]
- **Purpose:** The Opens Meeting Act is to require that public business be conducted in full public view, that the actions of public bodies be taken openly, and that the deliberations of public bodies be open to the public.

**CURRENT WORK**

- None

**ANTICIPATED WORK**

- None

**ATTACHMENTS**

- FY2027 NWRTPO Open Meetings Act Resolution:

**BUDGET IMPACT**

- None

**ACTION ITEM**

- ACTION: **Amanda Tolino, Navajo DOT** motioned; **Alicia Santiago, City of Gallup** seconded the adoption of Resolution 2026-001 NWRTPO Open Meetings Act for Federal Fiscal Year 2027. All in favor – motion carried unanimously.

**Discussion:** No discussion

| item # | Item | Presenter |
|---|---|---|
| VII. | **NWRTPO Public Participation Plan** | **Brandon Howe, RTPO** |

**BACKGROUND**

- **Why?** The NWRTPO is the entity responsible for transportation planning in the region and as a recipient of federal funding, need to ensure public participation when conducting planning activities.
- **Purpose:** The purpose of the Public Participation Plan is to outline the State and Federal requirements for RTPOs. The plan is mandated to help organizations such as RTPOs foster continuing cooperative and comprehensive (3-C) public participation.

**CURRENT WORK**

- None

**ANTICIPATED WORK**

- None

**ATTACHMENTS**

- FFY2027 NWRTPO Public Participation Plan:

**BUDGET IMPACT**

- None

**ACTION ITEM**

- ACTION: **Alicia Santiago, City of Gallup** motioned; **Nadine Jiron, City of Grants** seconded the reauthorization of the NWRTPO Public Participation Plan for Federal Fiscal Year 2027. All in favor – motion carried unanimously.

**Discussion:** No discussion

| item # | Item | Presenter |
|---|---|---|
| VIII. | **NWRTPO Title VI Plan** | **Brandon Howe, RTPO** |

**BACKGROUND**

- **Why?** The NWRTPO is committed to compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, 49 CFR, part 2, and all related regulations and directives.
- **Purpose:** The purpose of the Title VI Plan is to assure that no person shall on the grounds of race, color, national origin, gender, age, or disability be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity under any NWRTPO program, activity, or service.

**CURRENT WORK**

- None

**ANTICIPATED WORK**

- None

**ATTACHMENTS**

- FFY2027 NWRTPO Title VI Plan:

**BUDGET IMPACT**

- None

**ACTION ITEM**

- ACTION: **Nadine Jiron, City of Grants** motioned; **Alicia Santiago, City of Gallup** seconded the reauthorization of the NWRTPO Title VI Plan for Federal Fiscal Year 2027. All in favor – motion carried unanimously.

**Discussion:** No discussion

| item # | Item | Presenter |
|---|---|---|
| IX. | **NWRTPO FFY2027 Meeting Schedule** | **Brandon Howe, RTPO** |

**BACKGROUND**

- **Why?** RTPO member and public awareness for NWRTPO meetings. Update meeting locations and dates for the new FFY2027 schedule.
- **Purpose:** Review and approve JPTC of the meeting schedule for the remainder of the Federal Fiscal Year, locations need to be identified, and meetings will be scheduled to be held in person.

**CURRENT WORK**

- None

**ANTICIPATED WORK**

- JPTC Meetings for FFY2027

**ATTACHMENTS**

- FFY2027 NWRTPO Annual Meeting Schedule Public Notice:

**BUDGET IMPACT**

- None

**ACTION ITEM**

- ACTION: **Alicia Santiago, City of Gallup** motioned; **Amanda Tolino, Navajo DOT** seconded the approval of the Annual Meeting Schedule and Public Notice of the NWRTPO for Federal Fiscal Year 2027 as presented. All in favor – motion carried unanimously.

**Discussion:** Brandon Howe presented the schedule as currently constructed and indicated that all hosts have been confirmed but locations are still pending for the April and August meetings. Nadine Jiron from the City of Grant indicated that they have secured a meeting location for the April meeting and it will be held at the Cibola Senior Center located at 550 Jurassic Court, Grants, NM 87021. Mr. Howe indicated that the Pueblo of Laguna is still in the process of identifying a location and upon identification, a new schedule will be presented to the JPTC in October. Mr. Howe asked that the JPTC vote to approve the existing schedule so that the JPTC can convene in October for the next regular meeting.

## DISSCUSSION/PRESENTATION ITEMS:

| item # | Item | Presenter |
|---|---|---|
| VI. | **McKinley County Railroad Crossing Elimination** | **Rodney Skersick, McKinley County**<br>**Casey McElroy, Kimley-Horn** |

**BACKGROUND**

- **Why?** The USDOT and Federal Rail Administration have been actively looking to reduce vehicular, pedestrian and non-motorized transportation mode conflict with locomotives. During recent federal legislation, new programs were created to combat these issues. McKinley County, in partnership with the NWNMCOG and the RTPO applied for funding to study the potential elimination of at-grade rail crossings throughout McKinley and Cibola Counties.
- **Purpose:** The purpose of this item to present an overview of the project to inform the JPTC of a project that could have tremendous impact to the region including the increased safety at these locations. The presentation was also presented as a resource for T/LPAs interested in conducting similar studies in known problems areas.

**CURRENT WORK**

- None

**ANTICIPATED WORK**

- None

**ATTACHMENTS**

- McKinley County RCE presentation:

**BUDGET IMPACT**

- None

| ACTION ITEM |
|---|
| • None |

**Discussion:** See attached presentation material.

## REPORTS:

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

| BACKGROUND |
|---|
| • **Why?** Update RTPO members on news, training, funding, and other items of special interest<br>• **Purpose.** Keep RTPO members up to date on critical information from NWRTPO and NMDOT sources |
| **Informational Items** |
| **RTPO News & Updates**<br>• RTPO supported multiple applications to the NMDOT for Transportation Project Fund<br>• RTPO developed the FFY2026-2027 Regional Work Program and submitted to NMDOT for review and approval.<br>• RTPO staff supported the McKinley Railroad Crossing Elimination initiative<br>• RTPO staff supported the Gallup-McKinley TradePort Partnership with Autonomous Vehicle Testing Initiative |
| **Local Member Reports:**<br>• See member reports below |
| **NMDOT Reports:**<br>• See NMDOT reports below |
| **News, Training & Funding Opportunities:**<br>• 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 but submitted report

- Zuni Governor and Tribal Council allocated $2 million of the ARPA funds to our Tribal Roads Program to contract for asbestos surveys, asbestos abatement services and demolish the former Zuni DY Elementary School, Old Zuni Ampex Building, Zuni Public Library, a vacant house and the Zuni Twin Buttes building. The remaining funds will be used to establish an all-weather parking area for the new administrative office modular building. Added 6 staff to the tribal roads program. Project concludes in 2026.
- Small contract with the Indian Health Service to disconnect and abandon four (4) wellhouses. Completed the project in July 2026.
- NV5 designing BIA Route 5, Nutria Road. Consultant has delivered 50% of the roadway designs. The Zuni Tribe will apply for the Nationally Significant Federal Lands and Tribal Projects (NSFLTP) program. A discretionary program that is 100% funded for improvements to BIA and/or other federal routes.
- We will revisit the Sandy Springs road project. We did not receive any bids in 2023 and 2024. The Tribal Roads program will reconstruct and improve the road project but will also have an asphalt paving company provide training on asphalt paving to our crew.
- Will have Prestigious Paving to restripe the BIA Zuni paved roads.
- Other activities:
    - Assisted in the emergency flooding for the past two weeks. Zuni received assistance from the NM National Guard, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, FEMA, State of New Mexico, other NM Tribal Government agencies and private donations.....a very big THANK YOU.
    - Submitted ICIP applications for designs and construction of new helipad/heliport in the Blackrock community.
    - As the airport manager, we completed the phase II of the safety airport project, which involved in removing dirt materials at the east end of the runway.....because of clear sight distances that FAA deemed unsafe.

**McKinley County**

- **Whitecliffs Bridge 8085:** Project has been designed and has received BNSF approval. Project is ready for construction.
- **Purty Rock Bridge 9024:** Project has been designed. Funding received through NMFA Water Project Fund under Flood Prevention Category. Project is ready for construction
- **Rainbow Trail/Lobo Valley Road:** Project was completed in July using NMDOT LGRF. Project being closed out with NMDOT D6
- **Mentmore Extension**: Project has received Easements and ROW and is ready for construction using NMDOT LGRF and Transportation Project Fund.
- **Anni Clani Bridge**: Project is currently being design and is 75% complete. Project was recently funded TPF funding and will begin construction in the spring.
- **Railroad Crossing Elimination:** McKinley County has procured Kimley-Horn to analyze 8 crossings across the two county region of McKinley and Cibola. The team is currently finalizing alternatives for each crossing. Alternatives have been presented to local stakeholders and the project will be completed by December 2026.
- **Hasler Valley Road Extension:** McKinley County has procured consultants who will initiate the feasibility study to determine alternatives for extension from Hasler Valley Road to Red Rock Park.
- **Bridges:** McKinley County has procured engineers who will begin design to replace 8 bridges throughout the county.

**City of Gallup**

**Community Development** (Keegan & Alicia) – handle these projects:

- **East Nizhoni Phase I-IV**
    - Phase I-III have been completed
    - Phase IV (Re-bid) – a final walk through was done on July 7, 2026. Awaiting the Final Punch List and Substantial Completion letter. Awaiting the Final Pay App.
    - Working on closing paperwork to D6 for LP60033
- **West Aztec Drainage**
    - Design is ongoing and has completed the final task force review.
    - The City Project Manager and Mayor are working with the owner for the land needed for this project.
    - The city was awarded a TPF grant for the construction of the storm drainage.

- **2nd & 3rd Street Pedestrian Safety Improvements**
  - Project is currently temporary suspended until funding is granted either with NMDOT Rail Division or the City.
- **Quiet Zone for 2nd & 3rd Street**
  - Project is currently temporary suspended until the safety improvements design is complete.
- **Gallup Road Improvement**
  - Work will continue through the end of construction season based on the availability of asphalt.
  - The city's Streets Department is doing the work.
- **East & West I-40 Interchanges**
  - Work has been completed and all reimbursement request have been made.
- **Aztec Avenue Rehabilitation**
  - Work has started and will continue on Aztec east of the 602 right-of-way towards Strong Avenue.
  - Mill and inlay have been completed from Marguerite Ave. to Arnold St. and east of the 602 right-of-way to 8th St.
- **Hasler Valley Road reconstruction**
  - Working with the Project Manager on how to address this project.
  - § Due to the heavy high volume traffic we may bid this project and request to use the highway mix.

**Milan**

- Not report

**Ramah Navajo**

- **Bridge Installation** – M801 on BIA 125 – 40 years old. Helped address continuous flooding along the corridor. Will help preserve the road infrastructure.
- **BIA 145** – TPF was awarded. Funding will be used to construct improvements to the road
- **BIA 120** – working on the 5 required certifications per the NMDOT manual
- **Funding Cut** – 12% cut in federal funding will hurt Ramah Road Maintenance activities

**Cibola County**

- No report

**Grants**

- **2nd St. Shared Loop** - overall trail construction is complete.
- **Washington Ave** - Roadway construction is complete, trail is complete. Project is 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 is still in construction phase.
- **Anderman Bridge** – NMDOT commissioned design is being finalized, construction slated to start soon.
- **E. Roosevelt** - working with Wilson and Co on alignment study. Environmental services and assessment.
- **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**

- **Red Lake Chapter** – Working with the local chapter to complete previously funded road projects including last year's Transportation Project Fund award
- **N30/US491** – Supporting the solar lighting project. Project is currently advertised and will begin soon
- **Twin Lakes Chapter** – Street Lighting project, design complete, estimated cost is $3.1M
- **N5/NM371** – Burnham Chapter intersection project. Focused on Safety and widening turning lanes.
- **Smith Lake Chapter** – Continuing to work on Wolf Canyon Road – Navajo Nation Funding
- **Chee Dodge Intersection** – seeking more funding to complete the project

| | |
|---|---|
| **New Mexico Department of Transportation Reports** ***(significant news only)*** | RTPO Liaison (Samuel Jensen)<br>Tribal Liaison (Angelica Trujillo)<br>District 5 (Sean Brady, Crystal Macias, Amanda Nino)<br>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**

- Rolling out new grant agreements – please monitor and get executed as soon as possible
- In the process of closing out current agreements with T/LPAs
- Awaiting announcement of TPF awards

**NMDOT District 6** – **Bill Santiago**, **Kyle Slim**

- Local Government Coordinator Bill Santiago announced retirement
- Capital Outlay Agreements are set to expire. Will need requests for extensions if needed
- NMDOT District 6 will be requesting monthly updates for projects with agreements through the district.

**NMDOT Tribal Liaison** – **Angelica Trujillo**

- State Tribal Collaboration Act
- Transportation Safety Summit coming up. Would encourage T/LPAs to attend this in state conference.

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

- Acoma – Acoma Feast Day is scheduled for September 2, 2026. Chairman Concho invites all RTPO members to attend and partake in the event.

**ANNOUCEMENTS & NEXT MEETING:** Next JPTC meeting will be held October 14, 2026 @ 434 BIA Route 125, Pinehill, NM 87357 (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 **12:02 PM, Nadine Jiron, City of Grants motioned; Alicia Santiago, City of Gallup seconded**. All in favor – motion carried.