



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**CONTACT:**

Robert Kuipers, Program Manager  
Northwest NM Regional Transportation Planning Organization  
(505) 722-4327  
rkuipers@nwnmcog.org

***Northwest New Mexico Receives  
2023 Excellence in Regional Transportation Award from the National  
Association of Development Organizations***

**Washington, DC, [July 20, 2023]** – Northwest New Mexico Council of Governments in Prewitt, New Mexico has been awarded a 2023 Excellence in Regional Transportation Award from the National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) for their Prewitt-Milan Transportation Master Plan. This Plan is a sub-regional transportation plan to prioritize and plan improvements of freight, railroad, and road access and infrastructure to accommodate and support economic plans focused at the Prewitt Industrial Park and Milan Industrial Park to repurpose our assets to create sustainable and quality jobs where people are rooted. This Plan was generously funded by New Mexico Department of Transportation via the State Planning & Research (SPR) program and matched by private support provided by Tri-State Generation & Transmission Association, Inc.

NADO is a Washington, DC-based association that promotes programs and policies to strengthen local governments, communities, and economies through regional cooperation, program delivery, and comprehensive strategies. The Excellence in Regional Transportation Awards showcase organizations for noteworthy projects and practices in rural and small metropolitan transportation planning, program delivery, and special initiatives. Award winners will receive national recognition during the 2023 National Summit on Rural Road Safety in Oklahoma City, OK September 12-14. NADO, along with the National Center on Rural Road Safety, is hosting this year's summit.

"The Excellence in Regional Transportation Awards program showcases effective and creative transportation initiatives that improve accessibility, mobility, safety, and quality of life in regions around the United States," shared current NADO President and Northern Arizona Council of Governments Executive Director Chris Fetzer. "Programs and projects like Prewitt-Milan Transportation Master Plan foster community and economic connections and promote effective transportation networks."

“Transportation is vital to community and economic development in our region. It is only through the planning process that are vision for the future and building opportunities for our people start to take shape. We are grateful for this national recognition from NADO and proud of our Northwest New Mexico Council of Governments for being a top-notch organization on the cutting edge of transportation planning,” expressed Martha Garcia, Board Chairperson for the Northwest New Mexico Council of Governments.

For more information about the award-winning project, contact the Northwest New Mexico Council of Governments at (505) 722-4327.

###

#### **About the National Association of Development Organizations**

Founded in 1967, the National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) provides advocacy, education, networking, and research for a national network of over 500 regional development organizations. NADO members provide professional, programmatic, and technical assistance to over 2,300 counties and 15,000 municipalities.

###

#### **About Northwest New Mexico Council of Governments**

Northwest New Mexico Council of Governments (NWNMCOG) is 50-year-old regional development organization (RDO) recognized and empowered by the State of New Mexico and the US Economic Development Administration. We serve the entire three-county region of Cibola, McKinley, and San Juan counties and the communities therewithin to improve community and economy for the region and its people. The NWNMCOG is association of many local governments governed by a Board of Directors unified by the belief that we are stronger together and only united can we advance on regional opportunities and tackle regional challenges from sustainable water supply, to behavior health, to strategic infrastructure, and to regional economic development. For more information about NWNMCOG, visit [www.nwnmcog.org](http://www.nwnmcog.org)