



CONNECTING THE DOTS

VOLUME 8 ISSUE 3

FALL EDITION 2016

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COG Building Report

Ownership of "106"

The Northwest NM Council of Governments has taken a historic step in accepting McKinley County's offer of the building at 106 West Aztec Avenue.

Since our inception as the COG, the organization has rented office space in downtown Gallup and moved quite frequently throughout the years. As many of you know, the New Mexico Department of Transportation has completed its culvert project over New Mexico Highway 602, which lead to the condemnation of our former building. The owners of the COG office building, McKinley County, agreed to a settlement with the State, and with the proceeds from that agreement, looked for another downtown asset to invest in on behalf of the COG.

After extensive research and negotiation, the County moved to purchase the "Stronghold Church" property next to City Hall at 106 West Aztec Avenue— formerly the long-standing Masonic Lodge. With a move-out deadline set for late January 2015, the COG proceeded to accept the County's plan to relocate the COG into this historic building. Only problem was, the old Church/Masonic Lodge had never been outfitted for a professional office complex. With concurrence by the State to reimburse certain relocation costs, the County crews worked around the clock to create office cubicles to accommodate immediate occupation by the COG staff — and by the end of January, there we were!

Since January 2015, the COG has planned additional renovations for the more permanent housing of COG functions and activities, with portions of the building likely to become available for other community uses. As financial strategies were being developed; it became clear that ownership would be critical for the long-term goals of the organizations. In the 2016 Legislative Session, State Representatives Patty Lundstrom and D. Wonda Johnson

appropriated \$90,000 to assist the COG in acquiring and improving a building. This funding was ultimately vetoed by Governor Susana Martinez.

Since that time, the COG has been meeting with McKinley County on the potential transfer of the building. With the support of our Executive Committee and especially the COG Building Committee members of Louie Boniguidi and Billy Moore, the County made an offer to deed over the building. At our Annual Luncheon and COG Board meeting, the membership voted unanimously to accept the County's proposal. On August 16th, the warranty deed was signed and entered by the County Clerk.

WARRANTY DEED

McKinley County (COUNTY), a political subdivision of the State of New Mexico, for the consideration of the covenants contained herein, conveys and transfers to the Northwest New Mexico Council of Governments (NWNMCOG), a governmental agency formed pursuant to the New Mexico Planning District Act, whose address is 106 West Aztec, Gallup, New Mexico 87301, the following described real estate in McKinley County, New Mexico:

Lots Twenty (20) and Twenty-one (21) in Block Six (6) of A&P RAILWAY COMPANY'S ADDITION to the Town of Gallup, New Mexico, as the same is shown and designated upon the Map of said Addition (survey and plat by H.C. Nutt, Trustee for the Atlantic and Pacific Railroad Company) filed in the office of the then Probate Clerk and Ex-Officio Recorder of Bernalillo County, New Mexico on July 8, 1893, a copy of said Map being now on file in the office of the County Clerk of McKinley County, New Mexico.

SUBJECT TO Reservations and Exceptions contained in the Patent from the United States of America, recorded in the office of the County Clerk of McKinley County, New Mexico in Book 4 Deed Records, Page 497.

SUBJECT TO all other Easements, Conditions, Restrictions and Reservations of record or in existence, with warranty covenants.

SUBJECT TO Conditions as consideration:

The NWNMCOG covenants for the period of twenty-five (25) years to the following stipulations:

- That the COUNTY may request, and that the NWNMCOG shall provide to the COUNTY as feasible and without rent, access to work or meeting space within this location or any other location obtained or occupied by the NWNMCOG.
- That the NWNMCOG shall assume and as necessary spread the cost burden of building renovation, operation and maintenance across the NWNMCOG membership and shall waive, minimize or otherwise discount the burden of such cost to the COUNTY.
- That the NWNMCOG shall maintain the primary headquarters location of the NWNMCOG operation within the City of Gallup.

WITNESS our hands and seals this 16th day of August, 2016.

McKINLEY COUNTY, NEW MEXICO

BY: The Board of County Commissioners

Anthony Tanner, Chairperson
Carol Bowman-Muskett, Commissioner
Genevieve Jackson, Commissioner

ATTEST:
Harriett K. Becenti, County Clerk

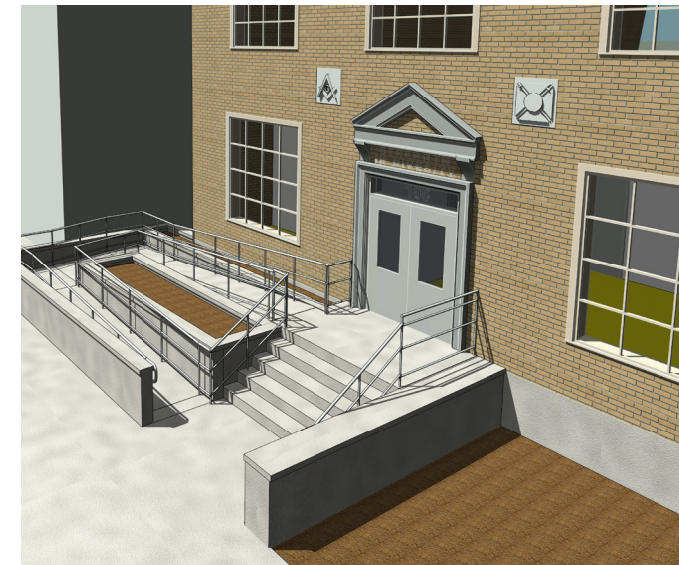
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08/16/2016 03:30 PM Page 1 of 1
DEED # 377282 - H. K. Becenti - McKinley County, New Mexico

Renovations

The COG now has an asset, and the vision for the future is bright at our world headquarters.

The COG moved forward with Phase I of the 106 W. Aztec building renovation project. In recent months, the COG partnered with Wilson & Co. Architect Howard Kaplan to design and cost-estimate ADA-compliant building features, including the front entryway and a downstairs bathroom. For cost efficiency, the COG identified the City of Gallup's facilities & maintenance crews as contractors for the ADA Ramp and bathroom renovations. Phase I renovation costs will be primarily covered by the New Mexico DOT's "Re-establishment" Fund as part of the Department's compensation package accompanying the taking of the COG's priority office building at 2nd Street and Mesa Avenue. Additionally, McKinley County has offered a contribution to complete Phase I. The project will be completed by December 2016, marking our two-year anniversary.

Pending ultimate disposition of the newly owned property, the COG will continue to implement improvements to the office space to create a more functional and aesthetic environment, to be achieved through inexpensive design solutions.



STAFF MOVEMENT



We bid farewell and wonderful directions to Leslie Kedeltz and David Hinkle with their future endeavors.

New team members of the COG are Jeff Condrey, Carrie House, and Robert Kuipers.

Jeff Condrey was born in Ganado, AZ when his father George and mother Marilou managed the Sunrise Trading Post there. A 1973 Gallup High School graduate, he married his high school sweetheart Ramona in 1974. They have three sons: Brandon, Collin and Sheldon, as well as one granddaughter and another grandchild due next spring. His maternal grandparents owned and operated the Parsons Grocery store, which was located on the Northside of Gallup, for many years. In December 1976 Jeff obtained a B.S. degree in Aviation Management from Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, Daytona Beach, FL. His first career was in airport management which included positions in Washington, DC; Salt Lake City, UT; Reno, NV; Stockton, CA; and Santa Rosa, CA. In 1985 Jeff and Ramona returned home to Gallup and their youngest son Sheldon, was born at RMCHCS in April 1988.



Jeff's second career has been in Public Administration. He was Gallup City Manager from 1987 through 1991 when Ed Munoz was Mayor. He then served as a gubernatorial appointee throughout the Johnson administration (8 years) as Director of the Local Government Division at the New Mexico

Department of Finance and Administration. After that stint, he was nominated by senior U.S. Senator Pete

Domenici, and was appointed by President George W. Bush to be the New Mexico State Director of USDA Rural Development stationed in Albuquerque. Following three years with the Federal Government, he saw a need to assist local governments that were in transition – usually following an election. He has served in interim and permanent capacities as City or County Manager at: Espanola, Edgewood, Las Vegas, Raton and most recently two years as Valencia County Manager in Los Lunas. His motto: "Have RV will travel".

In September 2016 he was recruited by COG Director Jeff Kiely, to become the COG's Economic Development Program Manager, with primary responsibility for managing the POWER Initiative grant from the US Economic Development Administration.



Bob Kuipers has returned to the NWNM Council of Governments, after about a two year absence, having previously served at the COG from 2008 – 2014. In his own words, Bob indicates that he is very pleased and honored to "return to his second home, after wandering in the wilderness for a while." Bob left the COG in 2014 for a job with NM Adult Protective Services Department, followed by a period of time in which he served as the Legislative District Assistant to Navajo Nation Council Delegate Mel Begay. Bob recalls that he really enjoyed the COG team, and pursued the opportunity to join the ranks once again, because the work the COG performs, and the impact the COG contributes to our region, makes a significant difference for our citizens

and governments. Bob indicates that while the work can often be challenging - requiring diligence, focus and perseverance, it represents some of the most rewarding and meaningful work of his career, because of the value and resources the organization generates for our region.



Carrie House grew up in Thoreau, NM, and is from the ancestral homeland of Oaksprings, AZ on the Navajo Nation. House's maternal grandfather was the late Henry Taliman Sr., who was one of the original Navajo Council delegates and who served as the Chairman of the Navajo Tribal Council in the late 1930s. Influenced by her father and extensions of family leaders, Carrie comes to the COG with multiple skills and leadership. Carrie has attended the University of Montana, University of New Mexico and most recently Santa Fe University of Art and Design; studying Natural Resources Conservation, Construction, Drafting, and Film.

In our region, Carrie has worked with Gallup Sand & Gravel, Murphy Builders, Battered Family Services, Youth Conservation Corps, City of Gallup's Engineering Department, UNM-Gallup's Math and Science Department, and the Navajo Division of Community Development and Natural Resources. Carrie was a Board Member of Gallup Trails 2010. Carrie is co-founder/President of the Gallup Film Foundation LLC, serving from 2004 to present. Carrie is currently a Planning Assistant for NWNMCOG and has contributed to the team with ArcGIS, data acquisition, and various technical skills.

Legislative Report

Special Report

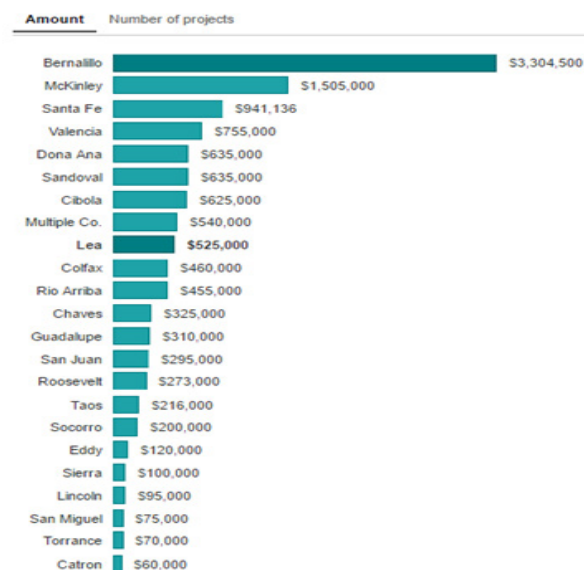
Governor Susana Martinez called a Special Legislative Session to mainly deal with a nearly \$600 million budget deficit from this year and the recently-completed budget year. The State is required by constitution to balance its budget each year. In addition to filling the budget deficit, Martinez asked legislators to discuss legislation to reinstate the death penalty for certain crimes, expand the state's three strike law and life imprisonment for intentional child abuse resulting in the death of a child. The Senate took the bull by the horns meeting on Friday (September 30th) and passed twelve proposals that aimed to close the gap to the State's budget crisis before adjourning sine die. The House instead started with the suite of "crime bills" and meet for nearly a week including debate and amendment to the Senate budget bills. The Senate came back on Thursday (October 6th) at which time they concurred with several budget bills passed and/or amended by the House. They never read in the crime bills nor debated or voted on these measures. The Governor has acted on all legislation. A full description can be found in our "Snapshot of the Session" report – here we focused on the capital outlay clawbacks. SB 8: Capital Outlay Project Changes – This legislation essentially deauthorizes severance tax bonds for nearly \$90M (119 projects) from 2013 and 2014 that remained unencumbered and unspent. A complete list is attached and a chart of the impact is on next page. Several previous general fund appropriations for capital outlay projects have been swapped out with this reduced STB capacity. Sections 9 and 10 amend existing law to permanently reduce the percentage of senior severance tax bonding capacity that is earmarked to the water trust board, the tribal infrastructure

board, and the colonias infrastructure board by 1 percent to each of the three boards starting in Fiscal Year 2017. The water earmark of capacity is reduced from 10 percent to 9 percent of capacity, and the tribal and colonias earmarks are reduced from 5.5 percent to 4.5 percent of capacity. Section 11 would further adjust water, tribal and colonias earmarks in Fiscal Year 2017. Severance Tax Bond (STB) capacity, for purposes of calculating the three earmarks would be reduced by the amount of FY17 capacity already issued as a result of this bill during the 2016 special session.

Status: Passed both Houses, Governor signed with partial veto. Governor vetoed several projects including:

- NATIONAL HISPANIC CULTURAL CTR INFO & WELCOME CTR (\$564,000)
- INDIAN PUEBLO CULTURAL CTR MUSEUM, RET (\$587,500)
- TRUMBULL AVE & SAN PEDRO STREETLIGHTS-ALB (\$100,000)
- SSCAFCA ALBERTA RD DRAINAGE IM PROVE-PH 2 (\$400,000)

Eliminated capital projects by county, October 2016



"La Ristra"

Tying New Mexico Together

The COG's work continues as part of the statewide NewMARC coalition to fashion a unified economic development framework, as well as an online project collaboration system, for facilitating "Growth & Prosperity in New Mexico." We call it "**La Ristra**" – named after the iconic New Mexico bundle of chiles hanging on porticos and in kitchens across the State, and signifying the "tying together" of diverse efforts across New Mexico's seven regions. Under the technical guidance of staff at North Central New Mexico Economic Development District in Santa Fé, the Northwest COG team has helped populate and further develop the new **Ristra** website. A key component of the **Ristra** Project is the "Local Government Network" category, which will provide entity profiles for counties, cities and tribal governments, and will eventually include special districts such as water associations, land grants, transit districts, etc. The local governments data set will capture a snapshot of each entity, including name, location, contact information and statistical and demographic data. A Local Government Network entity profile will show up on the **Ristra** website when searched by key word, along with any project and/or plan profiles associated with the entity. This will provide a comprehensive collection of entries in the Ristra Project System. Development of the Local Government Network is underway, with COG planning assistant Carrie House in the lead.



Drafting the Blueprints

Comprehensive Planning in New Mexico

The Northwest COG continued its leadership in fashioning both the regional and the statewide comprehensive economic development strategies (CEDS) – to be known as “blueprints” for growth and prosperity in New Mexico’s regions, and unified under the banner of “La Ristra: Tying New Mexico Together.” Recent development has included strengthening coordination between the State’s seven COGs and the work of the Legislature’s Interim Jobs Council, staffed by economic developer Mark Lautman and his team at the Community Economics Lab. The Jobs Council’s final report identifies 9 “program theaters,” each containing sets of industrial sectors and clusters organized around the kind of “program activity” that would be required to generate economic-base jobs in those sectors:

- ***Employer-driven Hires***
- ***Federal Government***
- ***Extractives & Energy***
- ***Visitor-driven***
- ***Solo Work***
- ***Film & Digital Media***
- ***Startups***
- ***Agriculture***

The report posits that:

>> New Mexico can no longer rely on the sale of its natural resources and the largess of the federal government to fund state and local government services and create the jobs needed for every citizen to have career-quality work.

>> In most of the State’s regions, including Northwest New Mexico, the number of economic-base jobs that have been estimated for achievement in the next 10 years falls short of the number needed to reach employment targets.

>> In every region of the State, there is a ma-

jor shortfall in economic development program capacity and the factors of production (such as capital, infrastructure, and qualified workforce) required to create economic-base jobs.

>> The State is not in a position to be selective. Investment and policy support must be systematically increased for each Program Theater if full employment is to be reached.

The Interim Jobs Council recommended 21 specific legislative proposals for consideration by the State Legislature. Among the recommendations were an appropriation of \$200,000 for Local Job Creation Education & Planning (which the COGs would be well positioned for) and a three-year commitment of \$2.25 million for Staff Augmentation for regional and local economic development organizations to hire professionals to expand job creation in their areas. The Northwest COG is working with its consultants and NewMARC partners to put final touches on the regional and statewide plans this Fall.

“POWER”

Guiding the Economic Transition of a Coal-Reliant Region

At its Annual Meeting held in early August at the Center for Energy Excellence on the San Juan College campus, the COG hosted the visit of Rick Sebenoler, newly-designated “Economic Development Integrator” for the Austin Regional Office of the Economic Development Administration. Mr. Sebenoler has served as the COG’s primary federal liaison for the EDA “POWER” grant awarded to the COG in Fall 2015, and his new job involves coordinating the flow of federal funding streams across the many agencies of the federal government. He proposed a regional POWER “summit” for this Fall to bring the federal agencies

Economic Development Report

together with the region’s public and private sector leaders. In consultation with the COG’s partners, however, executing such a regional meeting has been deemed impractical at the present time. In the meantime, the COG’s consultants at Highland Economics have continued their research into the impacts on the region of the dramatic changes occurring in the coal industry, and in the energy industry more broadly, and developing recommendations for diversification of the region’s economy. The preliminary report is due out in early November, to be reviewed by the POWER Committee, with a final report and conference due to be held in the early Spring of 2017.



(RTPO) Regional Transportation Planning Organization

COG staff continue providing assistance to McKinley County Roads Dept. and area Chapters for development of regional local roads; among top priorities including the chipseal of 6.2 miles of Johnson Road, connecting the Tohlakai / Twin Lakes area (US491) to Coyote Canyon area (Bass Lake Rd.) – serving multiple families and bus routes in the area; and safety improvements to the NM118 corridor, Rehoboth to Churchrock intersections – past Fire Rock Casino. A road safety audit under NMDOT Dist. 6 was completed for this NM118 corridor on 10/4/16. Since the last COG Board meeting (8/3/16) COG and RTPO staff continued supporting the 4-CITE initiative for an industrial logistics park and potential rail – trucking Navajo inland port transloading facility (west of Gallup); including stakeholder and public meetings in August and September to finalize an initial site-development master plan. Mr. Williams and Mr. Kuipers participated in another statewide RTPO Roundtable

9/15/16 in Ruidoso; topics covered included ADA transition plans, updated FHWA / NMDOT Planning regulation, RTPO annual performance reports, and updates to Title VI regulation and Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) development. Related to TAP, the RTPO continues supporting many of our local governments in all three counties, participating in development of multi-modal and/or recreational trails projects. This includes collaboration with the US Forest Service and the Zuni Mountain Trails Partnership for development of an additional 238 miles of recreational trails in the Zuni Mountains within Cibola and McKinley Counties. Of significance during this period (August – October) was the call for transportation projects from all member governments for the bi-annual opportunity to update the RTIP (Regional Transportation Improvement Plan) for the NWRTPO. This time we eliminated all previous projects and asked our RTPO govt. representatives to produce a fiscally con-

strained RTIP that only includes roads adequately functionally classified to qualify for federal (FHWA) funding through the NM-DOT. As a result our total projects funding request for the NWRTPO region went from \$340.4 million from our FY17 RTIPR, to \$28.3 million for our FY18 RTIP. Of 60 projects submitted on Project Feasibility Forms (PFFs), 39 were qualified by NMDOT Dist. 5 & 6 for development of Project Identification Forms (PIFs), for inclusion in the FY18 RTIP. These PIFs along with TAP and Recreational Trails applications were due by 10/28/16, and will be prioritized at the 12/14/16 NWRTPO meeting, after review by the DOT Districts. A comprehensive project list was also developed for the NWRTPO region, which stands at \$776.8 million! Finally, the NWRTPO also conducted its annual evaluative ranking of our regions public transportation providers funding applications at the 10/12/16 meeting. RTPO and COG staff continue collaboration with the Northern Pueblo's RTPO for development of the Panoramic website – for real time representation of transportation project development.

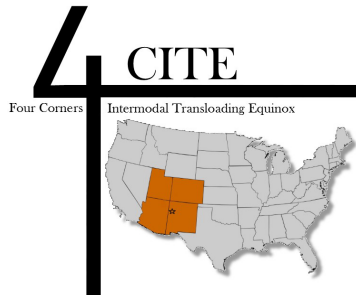
RTPO Meeting Schedule

- **Wednesday, November 9, 2016 @ Milan Parks & Recreation Office, 409 Airport Road, Milan, NM**
- **Wednesday, December 14, 2016 @ El Morro Event Center, Middle of 2nd Street between Aztec and Coal Avenues, Gallup, NM**
- **Wednesday, January 11, 2017 @ Cibola Convention Center, 515 High Street, Grants, NM**

Robert Kuipers, Planning Assistant
(505) 722-4327 - rkuipers@nwnmcog.org

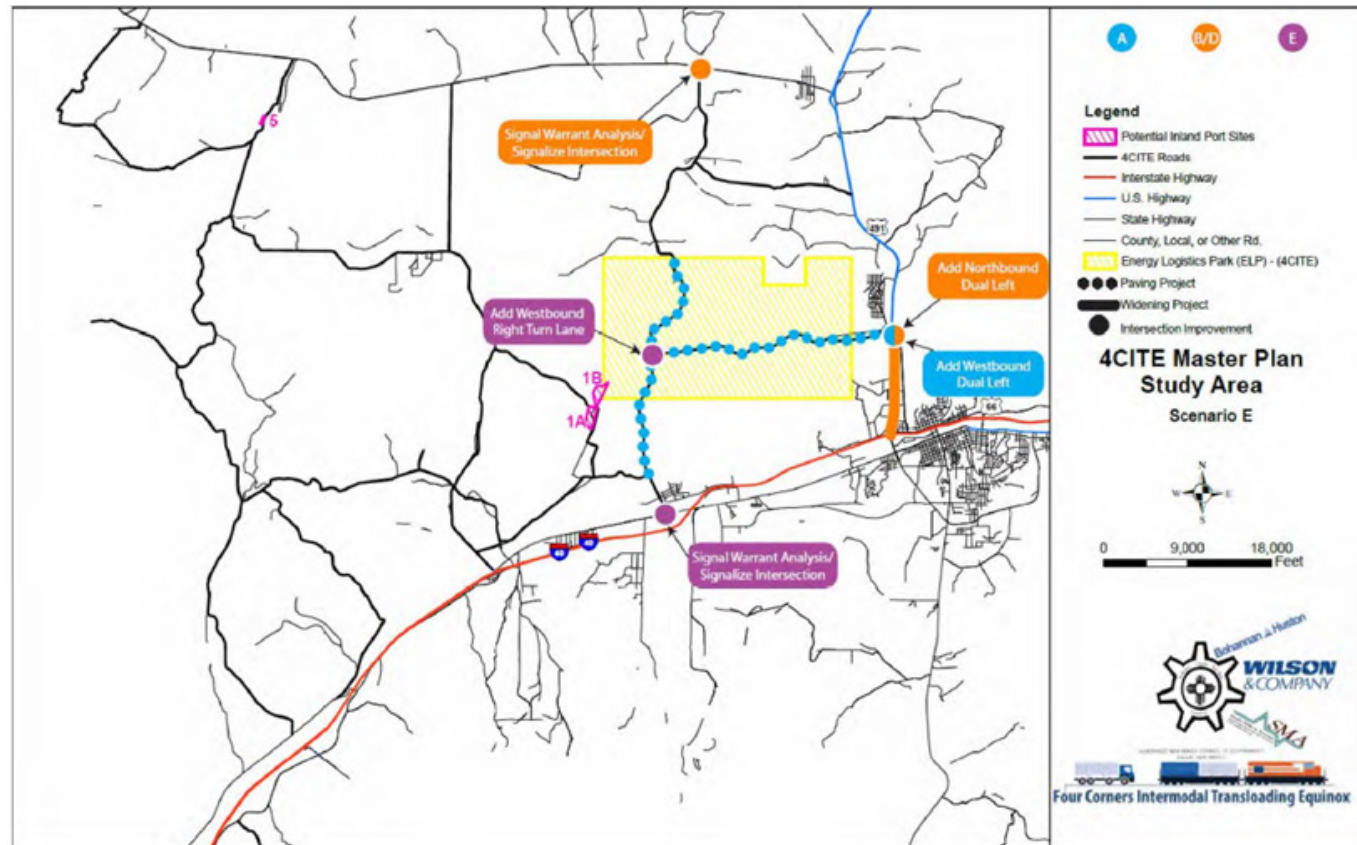


(4CITE) 4 Corners Intermodal Transloading Equinox



The 4CITE Master Plan initiative was focused on the evaluation of the transportation network in the area of future development for both the Energy Logistics Park (ELP) and the proposed Navajo Nation Inland Port. The Plan evaluates

the incremental impact expected from these proposed developments as the associated traffic volumes are added to the existing traffic conditions. It does not include a regional transportation model evaluation for the entire Gallup Area. However, the results include a list of transportation recommendations for the area network (Table 9). The recommendations identify roadway improvements needed and associated costs as they relate to a percentage of growth for each of the proposed industrial developments within the area. This approach provides guidelines for the regulating agencies to coordinate directly with the proposed developers as well as begin the process of requesting state or federal funds for the roadway improvements. The scenarios were tiered to represent a reasonable expectation for growth patterns. They also included two isolated options for the Navajo Inland Ports 1 and 5. Recommendations are made for both options so that going forward appropriate decisions can be made depending on which site is chosen. Traffic data used included some conservative estimates to ensure future recommendations would be adequate such as an increase in truck volumes and the exceedance of existing traffic on smaller County roads. It is also assumed that the majority of traffic generated by the proposed industrial development would occur during the



weekdays, minimizing conflicts with the current traffic volumes on the weekends in the Gallup area.

This Master Plan has become extremely important with the recent groundbreaking by Gallup Land Partners (GLP) on a new rail terminal at the Energy Logistics Park. This project will be the first domain to fall in increasing business opportunities and job growth in our Four Corners region.

Recommended Improvement	Scenario A	Scenario B	Scenario C	Scenario D	Scenario E
Pave Carbon Coal Road	x	x	x	x	x
Pave Rock Springs Road	x	x	x	x	x
Pave Unnamed Road (aligned with Rock Springs Road - south)	x	x	x	x	x
Widen US 491 - south of 9th Street/ Chino Road - to six lanes		x	x	x	x
Pave Sunset Valley Road			x		
Pave 3 Buttes Road			x		
Pave Hunters Point Road			x		
Signal Warrant Analysis/ Signalize (NM 264 and County Road 9/ Rock Springs Road)		x	x	x	x
Add a westbound right turn lane (Carbon Coal Road and County Road 9/ Rock Springs Road)					x
Signal Warrant Analysis/ Signalize (Frontage Road/ Historic Highway 66 and Mentmore Road)					x
Add a westbound dual left turn at US 491 and 9th Street/ Chino Road	x	x	x	x	x
Add a northbound dual left turn at US 491		x	x	x	x

(ZMTP) Zuni Mountains Trails Partnership

The COG staff working with members of the Zuni Mountains Trail Partnership (ZMTP) completed the first revision of the Zuni Mountains Trail & Conservation Master Plan. The Zuni Mountains Trail & Conservation Master Plan is a living document, which will guide the sustainable development of trails, conservation, and recreation opportunities in the Zuni Mountains for the social and economic benefit of local communities and visiting public.

The Zuni Mountains Trail System will become an economic driver through adventure tourism, with the end goal of catalyzing jobs and business opportunities. There is agreement that this project needs to be systemically phased in, as capacity and resources grow to meet ongoing maintenance needs, as well as, to control promotion, growth, and use to avoid being overwhelmed by the visiting public.

In the last year, the COG has been working with Cibola and McKinley County counties in partnership with the US Forest Service – Cibola National Forest, Mt. Taylor Ranger District to finish the environmental assessment (EA) that was

published for public comment in June 15th. Since which time highlights have included:

>> **September 2015:** The USFS agrees to designate both Cibola and McKinley counties with cooperating agency status.

>> **September – November 2015:** consultations with various user groups took place, resulting in a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between mountain biking interests and equestrian users.

>> **November 2015:** Based on USFS consultations, both counties agreed to add very limited but proportionate funds to complete additional heritage studies and reports for the final EA.

>> **February 2016:** Establishment of the Zuni Mountains Chapter of the Back Country Horsemen, who have held several events for fundraising, awareness, and trail scouting reports.

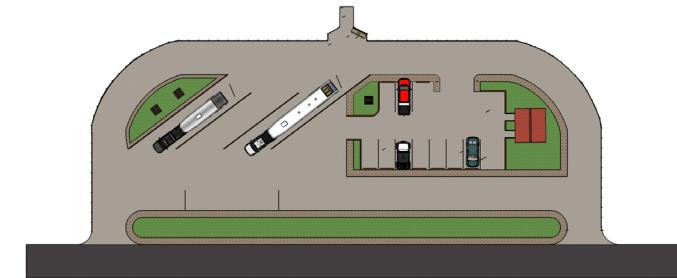
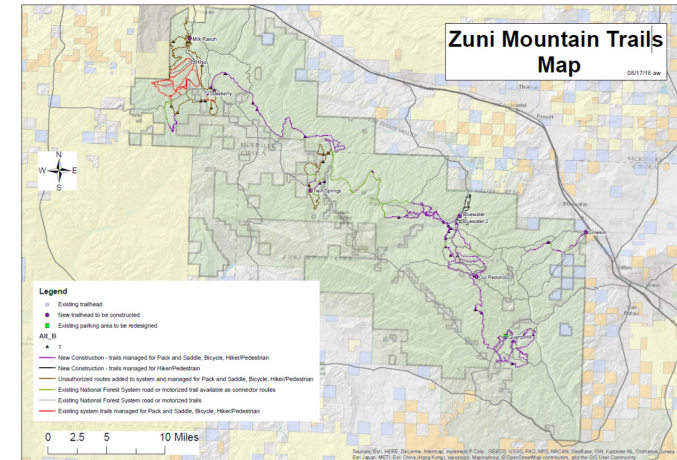
>> **August 2016:** Both Cibola and McKinley County submitted prioritized phases of this overall project to the Northwest NM Regional Transportation Planning Organization, as part of their Call for Transportation Projects process and the NM Department of Transportation's Active Transportation and Recreational Trails Program guidance.

>> **October 28, 2016:** Both Cibola and McKinley County submitted Recreational Trails Program (RTP) grant applications to build-out this system.

>> **TBD:** USFS--Cibola National Forest issues final Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Zuni Mountain Trail on the Mt. Taylor Ranger District.

>> **TBD:** USFS-Cibola National Forest issues record of decision notice based on the final Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Zuni Mountain Trail on the Mt. Taylor Ranger District. COG staff have assisted each County with Recreational Trails Grant program applications to build-out important segments of the overall trail sys-

tem. Hopefully, these applications are successful and that the project moves into implementation.



McKinley/Thoreau Place Making Project

Background

The Northwest New Mexico Council of Governments has partnered with McKinley County to oversee an economic & master plan initiative for the St. Bonaventure Indian Mission and the community of Thoreau.

In the fall of 2015, St. Bonaventure Indian Mission approached the McKinley County Commission to express their desire to combat economic and social woes of eastern McKinley County. Various conversations between the two entities and the COG led to the submission of a New Mexico Finance Authority - Local Government Planning Grant in November 2015. The application identified the need to conduct an economic feasibility study for the community of Thoreau and the surround area and to develop master & phase I site development plans on St. Bonaventure Indian Mission property. In January 2016, the County, the Mission, and the COG were notified that their request for \$50,000 was awarded and all planning activities could begin after agreements and contracts were signed. McKinley County requested that the COG manage this project and hire a consultant to complete the work outlined in the application. Wilson & Company was selected to complete the work. Once completed, the documents will be used to identify economic & development strategies aimed at provide services and quality of life amenities for a community struggling to maintain positive outlook.

Early Work

The COG has for the past couple of months been working alongside Wilson & Company and St. Bonaventure Indian Mission to gather and analyze quantitative and qualitative data to be used to develop the economic feasibility study and master plan. The COG has specifically worked to gather

Geographic Information System (GIS) files and plans relating to the focus of the initiative.

Steering Committee

On September 27th, the COG attended the steering committee kick-off meeting on the St. Bonaventure school campus in Thoreau, NM. The meeting provided the opportunity for all project partners and committee member to meet and discuss the project and share ideas. Further, the meeting highlighted

project goals, the focus area, the identified process & schedule, and next steps. Lastly, the meeting provided members the opportunity to participate in a visioning exercise aimed at identifying the community, the needs, the challenges, and the opportunities.

Going Forward

The COG will continue to provide oversight of the project as well as technical assistance. The following is an initial breakdown of the schedule:

Tasks	Target Date
Task 1: Community Participation Process	
Finalize Work Plan and Schedule	Early September
Compile all data and previous plans	09/30/2016
Task 2: Existing Conditions and Asset Inventory	
Task 3: Gaps and Market Analysis	
Steering Committee Meeting #1 (Kick-off and Information Gathering)	09/27/2016
Existing Conditions and Needs Assessment Report	Early November
Task 4: Master Plan	
Charrette #1 (includes Steering Committee Meeting #2)	Mid November
Public Meeting #1	Mid November
Draft Master Plan	Early December
Task 5: Implementation and Financing Plan	
Task 6: Phase 1 Site Development Plan	
Steering Committee Meeting #3	Early January
Public Meeting #2	Early January
Final Master Plan	Early January
Adoption Hearing	Late January



St.
BONAVENTURE

WILSON
& COMPANY

Notes from the Executive Director

To the Regional Family—Dear Friends,

Hope and Fear. The drivers of our conscience, our emotions, our relationships and actions. And all exaggerated by the State budget crisis and the weird frenzy and polarization of this year's election season.

In the world of public service, the COG is a place – neutral ground – where our hopes and fears can be discussed, understood and worked on ... and where fear can turn to hope when we work together.

Regional Strategies. Partnerships. Solutions. That's what we're about. And we work at it every day – serving at the nexus of federal, state and local government.

In the midst of the turmoil and uncertainty, our members, our Board, our staff and our partners keep the communication channels open, keeping our eyes on the prize, seeking out new leads, new resources, and new directions.

We're finding – no surprise! – that it's not all that easy. But we've got good accomplishment to point to, and a lot of excellent planning in full progress – thanks to the brilliant work of COG Deputy Director Evan Williams and the planning team of Brandon Howe, Carrie House, Jeff Condrey and Bob Kuipers:



>> The Regional Long-Range Transportation Plan got done, beautifully aligned with the statewide Plan – probably one of the best planning processes the State has known.

>> The 4CITE report is under final review: the “Four Corners Intermodal Transloading Equinox” referring to the foresight needed to look ahead to the transportation investments that will be needed to accommodate new industrial growth on Gallup's west side.

>> The “Trail of the Ancients” Rural Development Plan crafted under USDA's “Stronger Economies Together” (SET) program got accepted, and implementation work is already underway.

>> The Zuni Mountains Trails Master Plan has been updated and submitted to the US Forest Service, helping to guide wise forest use and recreational development in the coming years.

>> The “High Plateau Country” Blueprint being developed as the regional comprehensive economic development strategy is coming in for a landing – looking to go online before Christmas, along with the Statewide CEDS entitled “La Ristra: A Blueprint for Growth & Prosperity in New Mexico.”

>> The “POWER Report” is under full development, with the preliminary report due in early November, and the final report due in late Winter. This report will document the study by Highland Economics on the impact on our region of the dramatic changes in the global coal industry, along with strategic recommendations for diversifying our economy going forward.

These are just some of the planning projects underway – not to mention our many other involvements at the local, regional, state and national levels. For myself, I've just concluded my year as President of our trade group, the National Association of Development Organizations (NADO), and I recently presided over NADO's annual training conference in San Antonio. The year has been a whirlwind, but it's been filled with great opportunities for connecting with partners across the country, with leaders in Congress and in the Administration and with new friends and colleagues working on advancing prosperity in rural and small-town America.

In August, I represented our COG and NADO on the Public Lands Leadership Tour hosted by my good friend and counterpart Russ Cowley of the Six Counties Association of Governments headquartered in Richfield, Utah. This amazing tour involved over 60 elected leaders and senior staff from local, state and federal governments, and it included a 36-mile ATV ride in the Fishlake Mountains, as well as an onsite tour of the Sufco Coal Mine.

On my way home from Utah, I attended the Economic Development Council of Colorado Regional Development Forum in Montrose, where I was inspired by tremendous work being done throughout that State to build Quality Places and support Innovative Entrepreneurs.

A couple of weeks ago in San Antonio, I was proud to see my Deputy Director Evan Williams showcased as one of 10 “Emerging Leaders,” selected this past year by NADO and the US Economic Development Administration to participate in a regional training program -- to help these young leaders forge new progress in economic development across our five-state region.

And as I passed the torch of the NADO Presidency to newly elected Lynne Keller-Forbes from South Dakota, I basked in the warm embrace of over 600 “COG friends and family” from across the nation, whose prayers and good wishes helped me through my (successful) bout with cancer and supported my work as their President.

Onward then, through the challenges and struggles that face us – bringing hope and support to all our associates.

Best wishes for a safe and beautiful Fall in our enchanted Region,

NADO Conference - San Antonio, Texas

