



NORTHWEST NEW
MEXICO COUNCIL OF
GOVERNMENTS

BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

BILLY MOORE
Chairman
McKinley County

DR. WILLIAM A. HALL
Immediate Past Chairman
City of Farmington

GLOJEAN TODACHEENE
1st Vice-Chairman
San Juan County

LLOYD FELIPE
2nd Vice-Chairman
Cibola County

LOUIE BONAGUIDI
Treasurer
City of Gallup

MEMBER GOVERNMENTS

Cibola County
McKinley County
San Juan County
City of Aztec
City of Bloomfield
City of Farmington
City of Gallup
City of Grants
Village of Milan

AFFILIATES

Northwest NM Regional Solid
Waste Authority

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

COG Staffing	2
Drainage Study	3
Broadband	4
CDBG: Grants	5
CDBG: Milan	6
Aztec Vision Plan	7
Notes from ED	7
Important Dates	8

Connecting the Dots

Serving San Juan, McKinley, and Cibola County Governments for over 40 years!

VOLUME 6, ISSUE 1

MAY-JULY 2014

Produced by the Staff of the NWNM Council of Governments

SPOTLIGHT: NWNM REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLANNING

2013 and 2014 have been a couple of great years for Economic Development planning at the COG. Several parallel economic development planning processes—at the regional and state levels—have been in the works:

- the New Mexico Economic Development Department's 5-year strategic plan;
- the Legislature's Interim Jobs Council;
- the Department of Transportation's Long Range Transportation Plan, including Freight & Rail Plans;
- The Statewide "Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy" (CEDS) being coordinated by our state association, NewMARC; and
- the Regional & State Water Plan updates.

We've also been working on updating our own **Regional CEDS** for the 5-year period 2014-2019. We've been working with consultant Jim Glover of The Idea Group of Santa Fe to help weave various facets of these plans and planning process together and help create a **dynamic, usable and strategic regional CEDS** plan for Northwest New Mexico.

The CEDS will incorporate a framework that will **identify and rank** projects by their readiness, the milestones they have achieved, potential for investment by other public and/or private partnerships, ability to catalyze other projects, and the budget and timeline to complete or complete phases. Projects will be



vetted for local, regional, state and federal investability.

The CEDS will organize strategies and initiatives according to the "6 Keys" model:

- **Key 1: Infrastructure** – identifying critical infrastructure needs strategically tied to desired economic development sectors, projects and outcomes.
- **Key 2: Education & Talent Supply** – identifying current & projected workforce demands & opportunities, resolving gaps between those demands and outputs of education and workforce development systems, and developing education-work linkages and partnerships that sustainably ensure the readiness of the local workforce for available jobs in the community.
- **Key 3: Business Climate & Competitiveness** – identifying & resolving issues and gaps in the regulatory environment, the tax and incentive structure, international trade, and access to capital.
- **Key 4: Innovation & Sustainability** – focusing on growing the entrepreneurial ecosystem, providing support to local business, supporting research and development, and accelerating technology transfer.
- **Key 5: Quality of Life** – providing services and amenities in the community that affect the overall quality of life, including

access to healthcare, availability of affordable housing, preservation of natural resources, and support and promotion of culture, including honoring cultural diversity.



Continued on Page 4 & 5

COG Motions: Staffing Changes

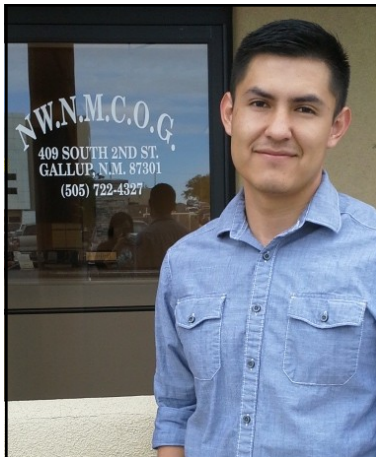
Regional Planner Prestene Garnenez Moves On...

It is with much sadness that we say farewell to Regional Planner **Prestene Garnenez**.

In late June, Prestene announced that she would like move on from the Council of Governments for an opportunity to lead a project that is near and dear to her heart. She has been working with other community members (in her off-time) to start a 6-12 grade charter school in her own community of Red Lake-Navajo, NM on the Navajo Nation. She's very excited about the new opportunity and the chance to work in her own community.

While at the COG, she worked with member governments, McKinley County and the Northwest New Mexico Regional Solid Waste Authority, as well as many small communities throughout the County

and chapters. She also helped with the COG's Economic Development Work Program, renew the COG's Internship Program, and tried to revitalize our Brown-fields Program (unfortunately we were not awarded funding once again). Though she's very sad about leaving the Council of Governments, she will look back fondly on her years with COG. She says she learned a great deal and was able to meet and become good friends with many of the people she worked with over the past couple of years. We wish Prestene and the new charter school the best!



COG Internship Program: Building our Regional Capacity

The **COG Internship Program** entered its second consecutive year with the hiring of **Brandon Howe**. Advertisements and invitations were extended to our network of member governments, partners, and friends about the COG's **10-week Internship Program**. Several impressive and exceptional applications were received (once again) and Brandon's application quickly rose to the top. Brandon is a recent UNM graduate with a BA degree from the School of Architecture and Planning in **Environmental Planning and Design**.

Before being accepted into the Council of Governments' Internship program, Brandon was a student intern under UNM's Indigenous Design and Planning Institute where he worked with fellow classmates and other student interns to develop a rehabilitation plan for the Plaza of Nambe Pueblo. Brandon plans to use the internship opportunity at the COG to help **broaden his knowledge of the planning field**, and to help guide him on future endeavors within the field of planning. He also plans to continue his education and enter into a Graduate Landscape Architecture Program after he has gained experience within the planning profession. After graduate school, Brandon wants to combine knowledge obtained from his planning experience with newly acquired knowledge of Landscape Architecture to **plan and design parks and civic spaces within the urban context**. During his spare time he likes to visit with family and friends, go paintballing, ride all-terrain vehicles and enjoys frequent visits to the gym.

NOTE: As of July 14, the COG moved to bring Brandon on full-time as our **Planning Assistant**. He will continue to bring his excellent work ethic, technical strengths, and vision for a better Northwest New Mexico to our COG and our member governments. Please help us congratulate Brandon and welcome him aboard!

Congratulations Brandon! We're looking forward to working with you!

McKinley County Drainage Study Gets the Green Light

After nearly two years, **McKinley County** and the **U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (ACE)** will shortly enter into an agreement to conduct a drainage study of several key locations in McKinley County; work will begin in July/August 2014 and take approximately 8 months to complete.

McKinley County Roads Superintendent **Jeff Irving** worked with Army Corps Engineers and Hydrologists to strategically select sites prone to flooding, washouts, and other drainage issues. These sites are the community of Thoreau, County road corridors between Thoreau and Coolidge, Churchrock and Iyanbito, Box Canyon, and Hunters Point Road from the intersection with Leo Canyon and surrounding alluvial fans and arroyos. The study will identify and perform **hydrologic and hydraulic analyses** including Aerial Surveys and Elevation Mapping utilizing LiDAR data coverage of the study areas with 1-foot contour intervals and **floodplain delineation**. Ultimately, McKinley County will get a **Drainage Management Plan** with recommendations for reduction of flood risk in the study areas.

In 2010, the entire **McKinley County** was declared a **major disaster area due to severe storms and flooding (FEMA-1936-DR)**. **Flooding and damage to roadways** is still a great concern and these locations are **disastrously affected on an annual basis with flooding during summer monsoonal rains**. County residents find themselves unable to get to their homes or to their jobs and other activities that supplement their livelihood when flooding occurs as **flood waters become dangerously high**. After storm waters recede, **gullies are so deep that cars and trucks cannot pass** or get stuck in the tiny gorges. Many have expressed concern especially when emergency **vehicles cannot access the community** in the event of an emergency. This plan should help to understand the areas of concern and recommendations for mitigation can begin.

McKinley County and **ACE** are utilizing funding for this study and plan under ACE's **Planning Assistance to States (PAS) Program** where costs are shared at **50% Federal (ACE) and 50% non-federal**. The PAS Program helps county, municipal, and tribal nations prepare plans to manage water and related land resources. ACE-PAS Program funding is subject to availability and on a "first come, first served" basis.



Photos Above: Box Canyon, along County Road 4 on the western edge of McKinley County, has experienced numerous wash outs of the only access road for the small rural area of approximately 50 households. The access road is not paved and as a result, gullies are created from the heavy downpours of rain which makes the Box Canyon dirt road impassable



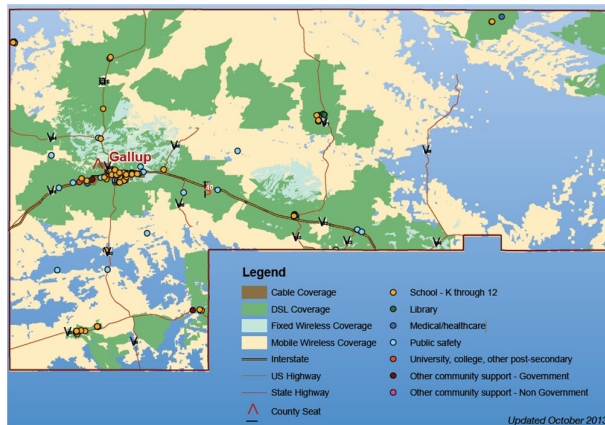
Map: Location of areas to be studied by ACE

NORTHWEST NEW MEXICO BROADBAND PLANNING

The Council of Government has been working to help improve and develop access to broadband for a couple of years now. Initial conversations with the Cibola Communities Economic Development Foundation and Greater Gallup Economic Development Corporation launched an effort by the COG to obtain additional funding and resources to build up broadband in Northwest New Mexico back in late 2012/early 2013.

The COG also applied for but did not receive broadband grant funding in mid-2013; however, earlier this year, the Department of Information Technology (DOIT) awarded the COG \$25,000 in technical assistance for broadband planning.

The COG is now working with the Northwest New Mexico Broadband Taskforce (a joint taskforce of knowledgeable, technical staffers from the City of Gallup, UNM-Gallup, the Navajo Nation's Information Technology and Greater Gallup EDC and others), and we hope to utilize the tech-



nical assistance funding to address issues of "redundancy, connectivity, availability, and affordability" of broadband in Northwest New Mexico.

Initial steps include expanding the Taskforce by inviting McKinley County, the Zuni Tribe, Gallup-McKinley County Schools, Navajo Technical University, the local hospitals, and public safety entities.

Goals:

- 1) Inventory the needs, identify existing assets, and plans including network facilities, poles, interconnection, identify opportunities to leverage, share, resell,
- 2) Request NM DoIT to conduct a Gap Analysis and
- 3) Continue to build the Technical Committee.

The Taskforce met in mid-June and expects to gather again to continue with inventories, to look at consulting resources, and to develop a conceptual framework. If you are someone you know is interested, please contact the Evan Williams, Deputy Director, NWNMCOG at (505)722-4327.

NWNM REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLANNING (CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE)

- **Key 6: Civic Leadership & Governance** – involving the growth of knowledge by local business and civic leaders in community leadership and economic development, the cultivation of partnerships in support of economic goals, building venture capital from both the public and private sectors, promoting cross-sectoral synergy and support, and building and promoting a regional/community brand.

We've also been consulting a number of "best-practices" like the **American Dream Composite Index**, the **8 Forms of Capital/Wealth**, **Triple Bottomline** and The **"6 Pillars of Florida's Future,"** among others from across the nation to assist in developing our new CEDS and looking for ways to increase usage/implementation across Northwest New Mexico.

In June, COG staff and consultant Jim Glover met with our local economic development organization partners from Cibola, McKinley and San Juan Counties to discuss the planning framework for "reinventing the CEDS" in a manner that's **customer-focused, easy-to-use, easy-to-share, and easy-to-track**. We're looking to fashion a **web-based CEDS that is tied to our Panoramic project collaboration software** and will allow widespread access by economic developers, community leaders, potential business developers and others. Initial feedback from our EDO partners was very positive and promising.

Continued on Page 5

CDBG Awarded \$362K: City of Grants Radio Street & Infrastructure

The City of Grants was awarded \$367,000 through CDBG this year for the Radio Street Infrastructure Improvement Project, which will address community safety and health by providing adequate access for vehicular, pedestrian, and life safety services, such as EMS, Police, and Fire. The project will also upgrade the dilapidated utility network that was installed in the 1950s, and provide flood control benefits to homeowners and residents. In particular, this project will address the following community needs:

- **Safety & Well-being:** Enhanced access for emergency vehicles and installation of fire hydrants for suppression. Replacement of clay piping and functional obsolete sewer lines to eliminate infiltration into groundwater.
- **Livable Community:** Enhanced pedestrian safety through construction of sidewalks and enhancements that will promote HUD-EPA-DOT livability principles and provide amenities increasing community sense of place and property values.
- **Flood Prevention:** Alleviation of flooding through enhanced drainage and storm water facilities. In 2006, residents experienced significant flooding and erosion, which propelled the City to conduct a

Master Drainage Plan with Army Corp of Engineers; this is a priority project.

The project has strong community support, Right-of-Way, other easements have been obtained, and an Environmental Review is underway. Upon award, Wilson & Company will provide Professional services to execute the project.

At a Glance:

Total Project Cost: \$499,607.82
CDBG Full Request: \$450,000
CDBG Phased Request: \$350,000
Match: \$50,000

LMI Percentage: 77%
Number of Beneficiaries: 44
Cost per Beneficiary: \$10,227
Timeline to Complete: 18 months



NWNM REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PLANNING (CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4)

We're also helping lead the **NewMARC** effort to create the Statewide CEDS, for which we hope our new regional CEDS model will be the template for this Statewide plan. We also wish to gain broad support from State agencies for various elements that we will need to implement the CEDS such as access to economic metrics that will help to gauge the success or failure of the strategies outlined in the new CEDS; information such as the number of jobs created, jobs retained, which sectors were the jobs created/retained, etc. to name a few.

Ultimately, our CEDS will support those core traditional economic development drivers of jobs creation:

- 1.) **Industrial Attraction & Recruitment** – involving specific marketing, sales and project development activity to attract prospective employers within target industry sectors.
- 2.) **Local Business Retention & Expansion** – involving specific customer service activity with existing employers in the community, identifying and resolving critical issues affecting the ability and desire of those businesses to remain in the community and to grow their business activity.
- 3.) **Local Business Startups** – involving a range of technical assistance activities to current and prospective entrepreneurs, enabling them to plan, finance, market, start and sustain new business activity in the community, and to employ themselves and other local citizens in their businesses.

Over the next several months, we'll be looking for input on ranking criteria in the ranking of projects, working with our NMSU partners at the **Arrowhead Center (New Mexico State University)** and **Paladin Data Systems** (developers of the *Panoramic* software technology) to further develop the technical aspects of our CEDS. Keep an ear out for more presentations and input meetings about our new CEDS.

Project by the Numbers

Total Project Cost: \$549,253

CDBG Full Request: \$500,000

CDBG Phased Request: \$450,000

Matching Funds: \$50,000

LMI: 70%

Number of People in the Target Area: 1,761

Grant Investment per Beneficiary: \$284

Timeline for Completion: 18 months

CDBG Project Awarded \$500K: Village of Milan

The Uranium Avenue and Sand Street Improvement Project is the culmination of a 10-year and \$3 million effort to develop a multi-modal corridor (vehicle, pedestrian, bicycling, and transit) in the Village of Milan.

Now in Phase 5, the project will also upgrade an aging water and sewer utility network and provide proper drainage and flood control benefits to homeowners and residents in this neighborhood. Aimed at enhancing the livability of the community, the corridor will provide a multi-modal connection for residents and school kids from the Village Hall to Milan's only Elementary School which was completed in 2010 and currently serves approximately 550

students. Additionally, it provides strategic infrastructure for community facilities and in-fill development.

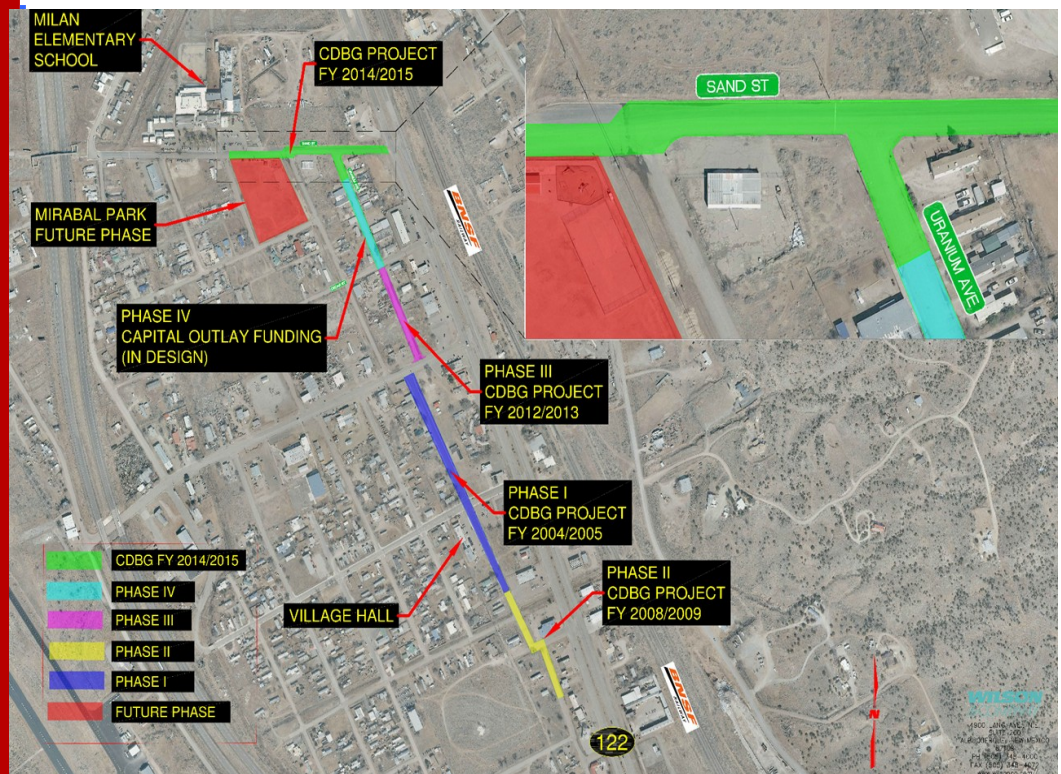
The completion of this project will also alleviate flooding by enhancing drainage and storm water facilities. The enhancement also provides for infrastructure upgrades for the water and sewage lines which are more than 50 years old. Other safety features include new curbs, gutter, sidewalks, drive pads and ADA ramps, signage, street-striping and street lighting.

The Village of Milan has secured Wilson & Company out of Albuquerque for professional engineering services and management of the project.

Congratulations, Milan!!

Map:
Phases of the Uranium Avenue & Sand Street Improvement Project are shown.

It represents approximately 10 years of coordination and collaboration between the Village of Milan and the State of New Mexico utilizing CDBG and Capital Outlay funding.



Vision Plan: Inspired by Citizens Who Live, Work, and Play in Aztec



Your Council of Governments helped the City of Aztec prepare a Vision Plan that was inspired by Aztec residents who thoughtfully shared their desires, likes, and dislikes about the City with their community leadership over the years. The Plan was passed by the City of Aztec Commission recently and can be found on the City's website.

Steeped in natural, cultural, and historic wonder, the City of Aztec's Vision Plan lays the foundations for a new direction and vision of leadership and the future of the City. Focusing on Community Collaboration:

- **"LIVE AZTEC"** aims to provide a quality of life second to none;
- **"WORK AZTEC"** builds on progress and prosperity;
- **"STAY AZTEC"** ensures visitors a friendly and inspiring visit, and
- **"PLAY AZTEC"** targets fun and excitement for residents and guests alike.

How will the City of Aztec ensure "Live, Work, Stay, and Play Aztec" happens? By working through a value system important to all Aztec residents:

- #1: **Keeping that Small Town Spirit,**
- #2: **Living Local** and buying Aztec first;
- #3: Improving upon and maintaining the great **Quality of Life** in Aztec,
- #4: **Strong and Growing** local economy,
- #5: **Gateway to Fun** that welcomes new and old visitors alike to the many attractions Aztec has to offer,
- #6: **History and Hope Unite** for rich experiences for both residents and visitors,
- #7: **Sustainability & Livability** of assets, housing, and infrastructure, and
- #8: **Visionary Leadership.**

The Vision Plan is available on the City of Aztec's website:

<http://www.aztecnm.gov/plans/AztecVisionPlan2014.pdf>

"On one hand, we want to be America's best and coolest Small Town, with those embracing values of family, community, safety, beauty, and livable scale. On the other hand, we aspire to grow and evolve and to be able to access the benefits, the services, the jobs and the marvelous technologies of 21st century American life."

—Mayor Sally Burbridge

Notes from the Director *(continued on page 8)*



Dear Friends,

For your COG, a turbulent summer ... but even as monsoon storm clouds start moving into our dry landscape, our own horizon is getting brighter. We've lost some good staff, and we're getting ready to relocate our office (probably just 4 months away). We've got some options, but time is getting short, and we're still awaiting word from DOT on their offer to the County for purchase of the condemned property we're now sitting on. We're being diligent in looking at the options, though, and we hope for a good outcome.

Within the COG circle: Having bid farewell to longtime COGster Bob Kuipers a couple of months ago, we now say good-bye to our Regional Planner Prestene Garnenez. Prestene has embraced a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to help lead the creation of a charter school in her home community of Navajo, New Mexico. We send with Prestene our enthusiastic support for her new adventure, along with our gratitude for her outstanding work on behalf of the people, governments and communities of northwestern New Mexico. We're now advertising for an Associate Planner, who will seek to fill those big shoes left by Prestene!

In the meantime, we're delighted to welcome aboard 2 new professional staff:

Nick Pappas will start August 4th as the COG's Regional Planner & RTP (Regional Transportation Planning Organization) Program Manager. A native son of New Mexico, Nick's returning to his home state from the Midwest, where he has been working as a planner and GIS manager in municipal government. He brings strong technical planning skills, along with a great attitude and outgoing personality.

[continued on back page]



**NORTHWEST NEW MEXICO
COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS**

409 South Second Street
Gallup, New Mexico 87301

Phone: (505) 722-4327
Fax: (505) 722-9211

**“Leading the Field
to Empower Communities
& Move the Region**

Important Dates	Date	Place
COG Annual Board Meeting & Luncheon	July 23	UNM-Gallup
RTPO Monthly Meeting	August 13	TBA
Transportation Commission Reception	August 20	TBA
NWNMCOG Anniversary	August 23	NWNM
NADO-Denver Annual Training Conference	August 23-26	Denver, CO
Labor Day Holiday	September 1	COG Offices Closed
County & Municipal ICIPs Due	September 2	Statewide
RTPO Monthly Meeting	September 10	TBA

We're on the Web!
www.nwnmcog.com

Facebook us!

Follow us on Twitter!
[@NWNMCOG](https://twitter.com/NWNMCOG)

Notes from the Director

(continued from page 7)

Brandon Howe, a native of Prewitt, New Mexico, is now in the saddle as our Planning Assistant. A recent graduate of the UNM School of Architecture & Planning, Brandon also brings strong technical skills, a passion for “making things visual,” a good ability to work with others, and a commitment to his own region and the Navajo people. He began the summer as our Intern, and now in his full-time job he’ll be a very valuable addition to the COG planning team.

As we enter the new fiscal year, “Planning ‘R’ Us,” as we continue to work on the regional “Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy” (CEDS), on the statewide CEDS, on the regional and statewide Water plans, the regional and statewide Transportation plans, and the regional and statewide Broadband plans - to name a few.

We’re also working hard to sharpen our knowledge and skill in the field of “projecteering” - our term for the whole process of helping move projects from Idea through the various Planning stages to Implementation and then on to Sustainability. This often involves trying to master the ins and outs of the various bureaucracies at the local, tribal, state and federal levels, and assisting our local government customers to negotiate their way through these mazes. Yes, it’s in-the-trenches work, but the excitement comes when we actually get projects funded and completed, and when our communities benefit from all the hard work.

We had a good experience at the June EDA “fly-in”

conference in Austin, where we engaged in a peer review/exchange process with our friends at Coastal Bend COG out of Corpus Christi, TX. This year, we hope to co-submit with our local economic development partners some very competitive funding applications to EDA in support of economic development infrastructure in our region.

My own involvement in the COG associations - NewMARC at the state level and NADO at the national level - continues apace, where we’re able to gain strategic knowledge and build strong relationships with other COGs and with the various agencies of state and federal government. This year’s Annual Training Conference for the National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) is being held August 23-26 in Denver, where I hope to be installed as the organization’s 1st Vice-President. If you can’t join me in Denver this year, please make plans to join me in New Orleans for the October 2015 conference, when I’ll be up for NADO President!

As I said, it’s been a turbulent summer so far, but we’re headed in a good direction. My gratitude - always - goes out to your great COG team: Evan, Prestene, Teresa, Bebe, Martina & Brandon. Hang in there, my friends - help is on the way!

Have a safe and enjoyable summer, and stay in touch!

Jeff Kiely, Executive Director