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GOVERNMENTS

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# Connecting the Dots

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

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## SPOTLIGHT: NWNMCOG'S ANNUAL LUNCHEON

This year's Annual Meeting and Luncheon of the Northwest New Mexico Council of Governments were held on July 23rd at the UNM-Gallup Campus. The Luncheon was attended by over 50 friends and colleagues from throughout the three-county region.

Following a welcome by UNM-Gallup Campus Executive Director Dr. Chris Dyer, and opening remarks by Gallup Mayor Jackie McKinney and McKinley County Commission Chair Carol Bowman-Muskett, Executive Director Jeff Kiely opened with an overview presentation on the "State of the COG," noting the wide range of services and partnerships constituting the robust COG work program — now published on the COG website in the FY 2014 Annual Report [[www.nwnmcog.com](http://www.nwnmcog.com)]. He underscored that **economic development** had been this year's theme, reflected by some of the following collaborations:

- Work on the region's CEDS ("Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy"), which coordinates and supports the region's diverse stakeholders and initiatives;
- Leadership of the Statewide CEDS Plan, being developed under EDA funding to the New Mexico Association of Regional Councils (NewMARC);
- Co-facilitation with New Mexico State University of the USDA-sponsored "Stronger Economies Together" (SET) rural planning project; and
- Collaboration and support for the work of the State Legislature's Interim Jobs Council.

Mr. Kiely then introduced the keynote speaker, NMSU's Vice President for Economic Development Dr. Kevin Boberg, who showcased NMSU's commitment to statewide economic development and challenged all present to be in touch with the COG and with him on how NMSU can assist with the development of our region.

A highlight of the luncheon was the presentation of the COG's annual "Regional Champion" awards, recognizing leaders in collaborating with the COG in "moving the region" (see page 2 of this newsletter).



*The COG Staff would like to thank the sponsors who helped pull off another successful annual luncheon*

## Regional Champions Crowned at Annual Luncheon

**Anthony Griego** served as a highly capable professional partner on behalf of the State DOT's District 6 Project Office within the Regional Transportation Planning and Development. Anthony has been with the State Transportation Department for 25 years and has now retired. The COG's Transportation Planning Group has learned and gained a lot from Anthony



over the years, and we found him to be knowledgeable, cooperative, generous, and trustworthy in his dealings with us.

**Anthony Griego**  
Distinguished "Friend of the COG"

**Sally Burbridge** has served on the Aztec City Commission for 8 years, and for the last 6 years she has served as the City of Aztec's Mayor. She has been active at the local, state, and national levels in search of tools, programs, and ideas that help move her community - and the region - forward. She has been a leading member of the Stewardship Council for the Interstate Tourism



Initiative known as "Four Corners Geo-tourism". The COG is fortunate to have Sally's remarkable leadership skills, vision, and compassion within the region.

**Sally Burbridge**  
San Juan County

**Royce Gchachu** is currently the chair of the Technical Committee of the Northwest Regional Transportation Planning Organization (RTPO). Royce has been the chair of the committee for nearly a decade and has earned the respect and appreciation of his fellow RTPO members from across the region. He has modeled cooperation and respectful leadership in his position, and has been an important and enduring player in the work of uplifting Northwest New Mexico.



**Royce Gchachu**  
McKinley County

**Eddie Michael** has served two terms on the Cibola County Commission and 6 of those terms as Chairman. As a one-of-a-kind leader and public servant, Eddie has kept his eye on the future well-being of the Cibola community. Building on his many friendships and working relationships, he used his talents to bring bold vision, keen focus, aggressive energy and a good measure of "horse Sense" to the work of local government and economic development. Eddie contributed to many important achievements within Cibola County and his leadership will be missed.



**Eddie Michael**  
Cibola County

# “4-CITE”: 4-Corners Intermodal Transportation Equinox

## Gallup Logistics Park

On the 11<sup>th</sup> of September, **Gallup Land Partners, LLC** (GLP) announced that there are plans to build the first integrated Energy Logistics Park in the State of New Mexico. The Energy Logistics Park will be located 5 miles Northwest of Gallup and will immediately accommodate phase 1, the development of a Crude-Oil Transload facility.

The Crude-Oil Transload Facility within the Gallup Energy Logistics Park will consume 350 acres of the 2,000-acre site and has been designed to accommodate the growing crude-oil production in the San Juan Basin. Partnerships with the Burlington Northern-Santa Fe Rail line will serve the facility and a private rail spur will be owned by the Gallup Land Partners.

The Transload facility will include 2 loop tracks, a double-sided 13-car spot loading platform capable of loading a unit train in about 14 hours, 6 truck unloading bays, and a barrel storage capable of storing up to 100,000 barrels; making it the largest in the State of New Mexico. The efficiency of the facility will create the ability to off-load 72,000 barrels per day onto the BNSF Rail Line.

The project capital cost for the Crude-Oil Transload Facility is estimated at \$40 Million, most of which will be privately funded. According to GLP:

“The Gallup Energy Logistics Park is a 2,000-acre master-planned business park anchored by a state-of-the-art crude oil Transload facility; the first and only such facility in New Mexico to anchor an Energy Logistics Park on the BNSF Railway TransCon line”.

Accessibility to major transportation networks is the lifeline of the park as it will be accessible to US Highway 491 through the use of Carbon Coal Road north of the City of Gallup, to Interstate I-40 which will be 8 miles south of the park, along with accessibility to the BNSF Railway.



## Santa Teresa Site Visit



In mid-September, COG Executive Director Jeff Kiely accompanied former COGsters Patty Lundstrom and Michael Sage on a tour of the **Santa Teresa Inland Port Industrial Complex** on the Mexican border west of El Paso. They were joined by Greater Gallup Economic Development Council Board member Rick Murphy and Gallup Land Partners staff Aaron Kowalski.

Developer Jerry Pacheco, a contractor for the New Mexico Partnership, hosted the group, providing briefings and guiding the tour of the complex, revealing hundreds of acres under development, capitalizing on international trade and major transportation infrastructure (e.g., Union Pacific Railroad) to locate business and logistics facilities serving that robust trade.

The visiting group was able to tap the experience and expertise of Mr. Pacheco, gaining valuable insights on both the challenges and achievements of this 20-year development process.

Key learnings: You need to have a plan for how it's all going to tie together, including the transportation infrastructure needs you're going to have. You need to continually seek both public and private investments into the development, and it has to make sense on both sides, in terms of return on investment. You need to make it work for the businesses wanting to relocate: the more efficiently they can move goods and services, the better the chance they'll locate to your industrial park development.



## “FundIt”

### COGs Help Governor Martinez Launch Inter-Agency Collaborative



For the last two years, the Governor’s New Mexico Rural Economic Development Council has met to discover new ways of funding projects in the state’s rural areas. On August 7<sup>th</sup>, Governor **Susana Martinez**, along with NewMARC Chairman **Hubert Quintana**, Mortgage Finance Authority Deputy Director **Joseph Montoya** and State Economic Development Secretary **Jon Barela**, announced “**FundIt**”, a collaborative effort involving 11 agencies, including the State’s Councils of Governments. The new plan pools the resources of virtually every state agency for economic development

in an effort to streamline funding for infrastructure projects that help small businesses. "It's also a way for the communities to prioritize projects," Martinez said. The Governor said that by having the new FundIt group, a variety of projects that rural areas thought were out of reach may now be within their grasp. The COGs are well positioned to help with this effort and provide support needed to make it work.

### US 491: Funding Received to Complete the 4-Lane Project

On August 20<sup>th</sup>, the COG staff joined the Transportation Commission, area legislators and community leaders, and other dignitaries for the announcement and groundbreaking of the last phase of the US 491 Construction.

Earlier this year, Governor Martinez announced that US 491 was going to be awarded \$73 Million of the \$80 Million in “new money” revenue bonds issued by the New Mexico Department of Transportation. Prior to the Governor’s announcement, the State of New Mexico had already invested about \$120 Million towards the completion of the project.

With the completion of the 20 + year 4-lane highway project set the near future, economic development opportunities have been in discussion. With the highway strategically intersecting the City of Gallup Interstate 40, and the Burlington Northern-Santa Fe Railroad Corridors, a Regional Energy Transportation & Logistics hub have is now in the planning process with phase one being a crude-oil transloading facility.



*Special Thanks To  
Transportation Commissioner **Jackson Gibson**  
for the time and effort he put into the completion  
of the decades-long US 491 project.*

## Upcoming RTPO Meetings

- **10/27/14:** RTPO Statewide Roundtable [Buffalo Thunder]
- **10/31/14:** Due date for Project Feasibility Forms (PFFs)
- **11/12/14:** RTPO Meeting Village of Milan
- **12/10/14:** RTPO Meeting City of Gallup

### NICK PAPPAS

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## COG's New RTPO Planner

The COG got a big boost when it hired its new RTPO Program Manager.

**Nick Pappas** comes to us by way of Excelsior Springs, Missouri, where he served as Director of Planning & Zoning and GIS Coordinator. A native of New Mexico and graduate of the University of New Mexico, Nick has returned to the State after seeking his Master of Urban Planning degree from the University of Kansas and then plying his trade for a few years in the Midwest.

In addition to being a great guy and all-around professional planner, Nick brings quite a tool bag of knowledge and

skill in the planning profession, including extensive expertise in Geographic Information System (GIS) applications, computer graphics, and other computer-based technologies.

Nick joined the COG staff in early August, replacing former RTPO Planner Bob Kuipers, who resigned earlier in the summer.

Nick says he absolutely loves the cultures, landscapes and people of northwest New Mexico. When we say, "Nick, you're not in Kansas any more," he only grins and responds, "Yeah, and I love it!"

## RTPO News & Updates

**The "Call for Projects"**. The Northwest RTPO is assisting the New Mexico Department of Transportation (NMDOT) in a comprehensive "Call for Projects".

Transportation project submissions can include all modes and methods of travel including roads, bridges, trails, scenic byways, rail, air, transit, etc. The process for collecting new projects starts with the submission of a Project Feasibility Form (PFF). The general public or non-NWRTPO members will need to gain permission of their appropriate jurisdiction and the PFF must be submitted by that NWRTPO member representing that jurisdiction on the Committee. A list of NWRTPO members is in the Call for Projects guidance, available on the COG's website: <http://www.nwnmcog.com/call>

**State and Regional Long-Range Transportation Plans**. The time has come to update our **Long-Range Plans** — both Regional and Statewide.

RTPO Program Manager **Nick Pappas** is working hard to collect, cultivate, and synthesize input for our region, working group, and RTPO members. He has been collecting, reviewing, and translating local and tribal comprehensive and transportation plans to upload strategies into the State's dashboard. Nick will be working hard to produce a regional input report to the State by the end of October.

On the next page is a summary of the 2040 Statewide Long-Range Multimodal Transportation (SLRP) planning process to date. ➡ ➡ ➡ ➡ ➡

## RTPO News & Updates *Continued from page 5*

The NMDOT has used several different approaches to gather input, including: Statewide Working Groups, Regional Working Groups, Interactive website & social media, Bilingual Statewide Survey/Targeted Tribal and freight surveys, and Public Meetings and Presentations.

**What they've heard so far.** Several common themes have emerged from our outreach and discussions to date. Overall priorities for NMDOT to consider include:

1. **Find Sustainable sources of revenue and spend funds more efficiently**
2. **Preserve and maintain what we already have**
3. **Improve Public Transportation**
4. **Support Economic Development**
5. **Address Public Health and Safety Needs**
6. **Provide access and mobility for everyone, everywhere**
7. **Support movement of freight**
8. **Protect and Preserve what makes New Mexico unique**
9. **Coordinate across jurisdictional/regulatory boundaries and make decisions transparent**
10. **Improve the quality of data and information to help managers make better decisions**

We are in the process of taking this input to establish a vision, goals, and objectives to guide transportation investment in the State and are currently gathering ideas about project, policies, and programs that could help us achieve that vision.

## Stronger Economies Together - "Trail of the Ancients Network" Regional Initiative

The Stronger Economies Together (SET) "Trail of the Ancients Network" Regional Initiative is a USDA Program designed to strengthen the capacity of community and counties in rural America and to foster a working collaborative to develop and implement an economic development blueprint ("High Quality Plan") that builds on current and emerging strengths of the region. Our Northwest New Mexico SET Initiative continues to meet monthly in each county, and on a quarterly basis a joint regional meeting is held, in which members from all counties are encouraged to attend.

The second joint regional meeting recently took place in Shiprock, and it turned out to be the best and most engaging meeting to date, with over 40 participants from around the region. Throughout the Initiative, SET members have been reviewing industry sector data and have provided insight into possible industry sectors that may provide a foundation to strategies that will be included in the "High Quality Plan". Standouts so far include: Tourism & Artisan Trades; Food Systems & Agriculture; and Industry & Light Manufacturing.

In the Fall sessions, members will develop Mission Statements and SMART Goals to guide the initiative as development of strategies will soon take place.



### UPCOMING MEETINGS

- **October 21**  
11:00am - 2:00pm  
Shiprock:  
Dine College/ N. Campus
- **October 22**  
1:00 - 4:00pm  
Zuni:  
UNM-Zuni Campus
- **October 23**  
9:00am - 12:00pm  
Grants:  
NMSU - Grants Campus



# Gallup Veterans Cemetery Gets the OK!

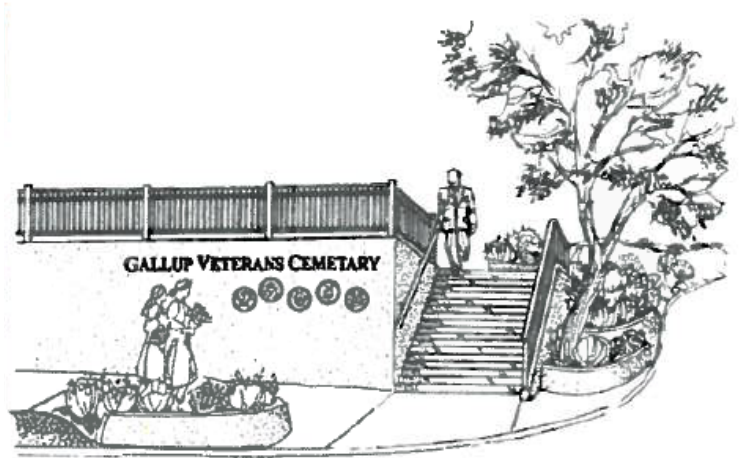
The steady and dedicated efforts by the City of Gallup, the Gallup McKinley County Veterans Committee, and others to honor our local Veterans has paid off. On October 15<sup>th</sup>, State Veterans' Secretary Timothy Hale said the US Department of Veteran Affairs has notified the State it plans to provide a grant to establish a national cemetery in Gallup, New Mexico.

Longtime COG staffer **Bebe Sarmiento** has been a major player in supporting the Gallup-McKinley County Veterans efforts.

The National Cemetery is expected to serve Western New Mexico and the Navajo Nation. Currently, burial options for Veterans who reside in this portion of the State are limited to National Cemeteries in Santa Fe and Fort Bayard in New Mexico, and Fort Bliss near El Paso, Texas.

The Gallup National Veterans' Cemetery is projected to break ground in the spring of 2015, and will closeout in 2016. The estimated cost for planning, design, and construction of the National Cemetery will be approximately between \$5 Million and \$6 Million. The Federal Government will pay to develop the Gallup National Cemetery but the State is responsible for its operation and maintenance.

In mid-April, Governor Martinez announced the selection of Gallup as one of four proposed sites for a new rural National Veteran's Cemetery. Along with Gallup, other sites included: Angel Fire in Northern New Mexico, Carlsbad, and Fort Stanton in Southern New Mexico.



## Notes from the Executive Director



The State Legislature's "Interim Jobs Council" has done the math.

Guided by a consultant team led by Mark Lautman, this "working council" of the Legislature met in a series of consensus-building sessions last year to agree on planning numbers defining the "predicament" the State is in, and setting targets for job creation efforts in the coming years.

What does the math say? That the State needs to create **160,000 "economic-base" jobs** over the next 10 years, or an average of 16,000 such jobs per year. And that's just to "get back" to the State's pre-recession employment levels in 2007!

This year, the Lautman team is facilitating "IJC 2.0" – the Council's 2<sup>nd</sup> year of work, which involves doing county-by-county "drill-downs" across the State, and then "rolling them up" to a statewide dashboard. These local sessions will estimate numbers of "transactions" needed to swing the deals to create those jobs, and to identify gaps in the "factors of production": the conditions that need to be shored up in order for new jobs to be created.

As part of their unified efforts as the New Mexico Association of Regional Councils (NewMARC), the State's 7 Councils of Governments are collaborating with the Lautman team in conducting "drill-down" Job Assessment workshops in their respective regions. In Northwest New Mexico, such county-level sessions are planned in each County this Fall. Be on the lookout, so you can join in and help define the job targets for this region, as well as pinpoint key gaps to be cured for those targets to be reached.

Our IJC involvement is helping to reinforce and expand the work we are doing in updating the region's "Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy." We've contracted with Jim Glover of The Idea Group of Santa Fe to help us pull together the many pieces and threads comprising economic development in our region, and to craft an innovative, inclusive and dynamic plan.

Your Northwest COG is also leading the effort to create a statewide CEDS, and in that effort we also partnering with Jim Glover, as well as with Dr. Jim Peach at New Mexico State University and Paladin Data Systems (Poulsbo, Washington). That plan, too, will be innovative, web-based and broadly inclusive, geared to help all stakeholders "compile, communicate and collaborate" on growing our economy.

In all of this, we are working hard to stay true to our reputation and performance as an innovative and responsive planning agency that "connects the dots" between the many different disciplines of public service, and that helps the diverse array of stakeholders throughout the region to stay connected, keep the vision, find resources, make good things happen and forge new progress.

Together ... we can "**Move the Region.**"

Best wishes from all of us at the COG for a safe and beautiful Fall season,

*Jeff*



## NORTHWEST NEW MEXICO COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

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Important Dates	Date	Place
Stronger Economies Together (SET) Meetings	Oct 21-23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dine College-Shiprock /North</li> <li>UNM-Zuni</li> <li>NMSU-Grants</li> </ul>
NWNMCOG Board Meeting	Oct 22	Gallup
RTPO Statewide Roundtable	Oct 27	Buffalo Thunder Resort [Pojoaque]
NM Infrastructure Finance Conference	Oct 28-30	Buffalo Thunder Resort [Pojoaque]
Jobs Council Assessment Workshop - Gallup/McKinley	Nov 3	Gallup Chamber
RTPO Meeting	Nov 12	Gallup
Interim Jobs Council Meeting	Nov 12	Santa Fe
Southwest Region Exec. Directors Association (SWREDA) Peer Reviews/Regional Conference	Nov 12-14	San Antonio, TX
NADO Executive Committee "Fly-In" Meetings	Nov 16-19	Washington, DC
Stronger Economies Together (SET) Meetings	Nov 18-20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Dine College-Shiprock/North</li> <li>UNM-Zuni</li> <li>NMSU-Grants</li> </ul>
RTPO Meeting	Dec 10	Milan
SET Meeting- Regional	Dec 17	Gallup



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to Empower Communities  
& Move the Region"**



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