



Connecting the Dots

NEWSLETTER

January - March 2025

Message from the Director

The Call to Serve Never Ends

This Legislative Session was unlike any I have seen or experienced. I feel like we say that every time and every time it is somehow true. The one constant is a forecast of windfall revenues is always met with a tsunami of new needs and a myriad of asks.

This Session had many high and low points amid the daily drama from the Tradeport legislation and substantial policy and programmatic wins for economic development to basically defunding the NM Transportation Department construction budget by mistake. We saw the largest budget in State history with hidden gems and treasure troves littered throughout it that my crack team can interpret, map out, and assist our members in positioning themselves to take full advantage and land critical investments.

The reason this Session was so different is we did not have 70 members in the House of Representatives. As I told the Governor in a poorly moderated session to present priorities from our area, there is a reason why we left an empty chair around her large round table. It is because we are missing our Representative from District 6 that represents primarily constituents in Cibola and McKinley counties. Most of you know and some lived through the dramatic events surrounding this seat and the strange journey taken to fill it, but skipping that for a moment to focus on the person who answered the call to serve.

Martha Garcia, former County Commissioner and former NWNMCOG Board Chair, has a well-documented service history at every level of the government prism – exhibit A: her Regional Champion Award jacket in our Annual Report. McKinley County issued the call to serve on February 4th by nominating now State Representative Martha Garcia and on February 26th when the Governor announced the appointment; she was already in Santa Fe eager to get started. As you can imagine, this was an impossible circumstance for anyone like having an anchor around your ankle and asked to catch up with Olympic swimmers with a 40+ day head start. But for Martha, she has always served and always has been ready to serve. She exemplified grace under pressure to the point that she put institutional legislators at ease and embraced the magnitude of personalities and perspectives while voicing and voting with her values on issues important to the District and her constituents.

I appreciate Representative Garcia willingness to reach to the COG and give me a reason to come out of Legislative retirement. I found out quickly how old and out of practice I had become, but also how important it was to everyone from constituents to State staff, to lobbyists and beyond that someone is there to represent them and answer their calls. Number 70 is as important as every other one because we have a right to representation. As it seems like less people are willing to serve and leaders are being asked to serve longer these days, I am glad that Martha Garcia was there again to answer the call to service.

Evan Williams, Executive Director

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WATER

Planning & Development Office

Water Trust Board

RWPO assisted multiple members with applications to the New Mexico Finance Authority's 2025 Water Trust Board program. The following are applications supported by COG staff:



City of Gallup: Requested \$9,721,602 to construct Reach 27.12 Project (Navajo Gallup Water Supply Project) connecting waterlines, a water storage tank and pressure reducing valve stations.



McKinley County: Requested \$2,563,638 to construct drainage improvements by installing arch pipe culverts at Salt Water Wash and (County Road 32B) Purty Rock Road to replace a WWII-era bridge crossing that prohibits crossing by school buses and emergency vehicles due to load capacity and aging conditions.



City of Aztec: Requested \$1,741,470 to design the South Aztec Water Transmission Line from Aztec, through San Juan County to the City of Bloomfield. The project will support water supply demand for both communities.

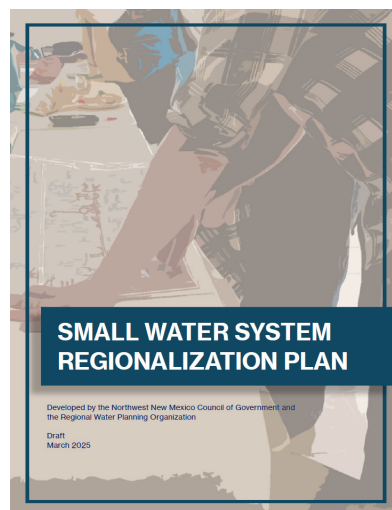


City of Bloomfield: Requested \$277,577 to design the Second Source Water Supply project. The project will provide alternative source of water supply for residents of the community and utilizes the San Juan River as its source.

Water Regionalization

Through NMED contract services with COG, the RWPO provided general administrative support with organizing and dictating board meetings and posting agendas and agenda packets. Currently, the Northwest New Mexico Utility Authority is considering reorganizing under recent legislation, Senate Bill 1 – Regional Water Resiliency Act. Discussions continue with member systems (Yahtahey Water & Sanitation District and Gamerco Water & Sanitation District) to outline potential roadmap.

The NWNMUA held a board meeting in January 2025 where contract agreements, with Anna Bond, Accountant, and Martha Briggs, Accountant, were approved. The accountants will be tasked to handle all financials for GWSD, YWSD and White Cliffs Mutual Domestic Water Users Association.



Small System Support

The COG/RWPO and standing partners (NMED, RCAC and SWEFC) continue with regional water programming activities and developing planning and funding strategies to support small water systems across the region. The follow is a report of small system support:

- **Bluewater Water and Sanitation District:** action plan items fully met, discharge permit compliance met, and previous capital outlay appropriations fully expended with purchases of new equipment and parts for wastewater sewer treatment plant. Recent staff turnover created a slight hiccup but IT/Board Member, Steve McCoy, took over daily administrative duties until a new hire is selected.
- **San Rafael Water and Sanitation District:** recent staff and board turnover created major interruptions to the compliance action plan; the Office of the State Auditor started on past due audits from 2008 and is anticipated to be completed by the end of the current fiscal year, in which the district needs to hire another auditor to file the remaining audits.
- **Thoreau Water and Sanitation District:** RWPO and standing partners conducted initial system assessment last month to determine areas of support and to develop a compliance action plan for the district. Recent retirement of Sherry Botkins left the district will no guidance until Ann Patton was hired as Office Manager and is tasked with multiple roles, including water sampler. SWEFC and RCAC to assist with compiling organizational documents to formulate financial spreadsheets and to develop an asset management plan.
- **Bluewater Acres Domestic Water Users Association:** RWPO and standing partners conducted initial system assessment last month to determine areas of support with engineering services and financial budgeting. SWEFC to assist with developing an asset management plan and project design for a waterline extension project to close two loops.
- **Allison Mutual Domestic Water Association:** RWPO reconnected with RCAC to revisit previous discussions with community members on re-establishing the system in order to be eligible for funding to develop a water distribution system. Residents are currently relying on hauling water from local watering points and with private wells, there are generally multiple households connected to one source. McKinley County finalized the preliminary engineering process which indicated a preferred alternative to get annexed by the City of Gallup, but the current understanding is that the community needs to build out infrastructure first before annexation proceeds.
- **White Cliffs Mutual Domestic Water Users Association:** McKinley County requested to serve as fiscal agent for two capital outlay appropriations for the construction of a metering station (\$200,000) and natural gas connections (\$400,000).
- **Ramah Water and Sanitation District:** McKinley County assisting the district with grant administration services for the WTB funding for project design (\$440,000).
- **Catalpa Water Association:** McKinley County assisting the association with grant administration services for the WTB funding for project design (\$350,000).

Water Commons

COG/RWPO held three regional water meeting with discussion topics on capital outlay, reauthorization, ICIP, projecteering and funding programs. The water commons meetings are held on the second Thursdays of each month via Microsoft Teams. To be included in these meetings, contact Angelina Grey at agrey@nwnmcog.org.

TRANSPORTATION

Planning & Development Office

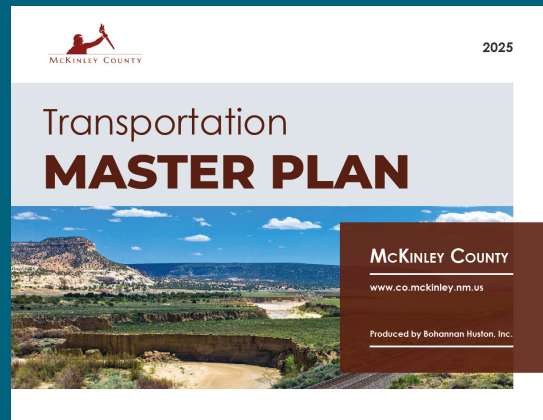
Message from the New RTPO Program Manager

Hello! I would like to introduce myself as the new Regional Transportation Planner and Program Manager of the Northwest New Mexico Council of Governments. In this role, I will oversee Regional Transportation Planning initiatives, ensuring the development and implementation of methods that improve mobility, infrastructure and sustain the goals of the communities the Northwest New Mexico Council of Governments serves. With a focus on collaboration and implementation, I look forward to working with all the stakeholders to create efficient, safe and innovative transportation solutions to the tri-county region.

Maria Reyes, RTPO Program Manager

Transportation Planning

The RTPO continued to support the development of long-range planning documents for Tribal / Local Public Agencies (T/LPAs) in northwest New Mexico. During the third quarter, the RTPO continued to support the development of the McKinley County Transportation Master Plan. The RTPO was able to guide consultants to complete a complete draft of the plan and is awaiting a final version plan to present to the commission for adoption. The RTPO was also able to secure technical assistance providers through a NMDOT planning program to support the development of the City of Gallup Comprehensive Safety Action Plan, a value of \$108,688.67 free of charge to the city.



Planning Project Development and Support

The RTPO support a number of Tribal / Local Public Agencies with project development activities to plan, design and/or construct transportation related infrastructure. The following are two project highlights from the quarter:

- **McKinley County Recreational Trails Program:** Assisted in submitting the County's application to New Mexico Department of Transportation Recreational Trails Program for McKenzie Ridge. The request was submitted for a total of \$530,625.00 with a breakdown of \$453,366.00 NMDOT contribution and a match of \$77,259.00.
- **Pueblo of Acoma Congressionally Directed Spending:** The RTPO was called upon to support the Pueblo of Acoma's request for Congressionally Directed Spending to complete phase 1 of the SP38 Haak'u Road project which will reconstruct approximately 12.4 miles of road for \$15,000,000. Support letters were provided to Senators Gabe Vazquez and Ben Ray Lujan.



Inter-Agency Coordination:

Part of the responsibility of the RTPO is to engage in inter-agency and intergovernmental coordination during planning and development of transportation projects. This collaboration is necessary to ensure projects align with overarching goals of the NMDOT, NWRTPO and the communities at large. During the third quarter the RTPO engage in the following inter-agency coordination activities:

- **UNM L/TAP:** Introduced new RTPO Program Manager to the L/TAP program to better understand the mission of L/TAP and to get a sense of potential trainings for professional development but more importantly to support T/LPAs within the NWRTPO. Staff attended the Open-Source GIS training which provided educational information on the process of compiling and delivering geospatial data in the form of an interactive web application.
- **NMDOT Transportation Commission:** RTPO attended the March 27th NMDOT Transportation Commission meeting held in Gallup at the University of New Mexico Branch. The meeting was highlighted by a presentation from Representative Patty Lundstrom on Trade Ports in New Mexico, legislation to establish trade port programs, and a brief highlight of the Gallup/McKinley County Trade Port. The meeting also offered a glimpse into the financial situation of NMDOT and the results of the recent legislative session that will have tremendous impact to the construction of NMDOT facilities statewide.
- **NWRTPO Meeting:** The RTPO hosted a Joint Policy and Technical Committee meeting on April 9th. The RTPO meeting was hosted by the Pueblo of Acoma and included a greeting by the Governor and Lieutenant Governor, presentations on NMDOT Transportation Project Fund, NMDOT Aesthetics Planning, RTPO Call for Projects Process, and Acoma Transportation Projects. The RTPO meeting was the first meeting facilitated by the new RTPO Program Manager.

Calling for Projects Update:

The Northwest NM Council of Governments committee approved the NWRTPO Call for Projects Guide during the February 12, 2025, meeting. The guide outlines the process for T/LPAs to submit projects for inclusion onto the RTIPR and to also submit applications to the Transportation Project Fund. The guide also includes a timeline of all steps culminating in the presentation of an updated RTIPR to the Joint Policy and Technical Committee for approval. The RTPO has supported the development of Project Feasibility Forms and has collected and reviewed forms prior to the mandatory project consultation with NMDOT Districts 5 & 6. The RTPO will continue to support and guide T/LPAs through the call for projects process and will support application to the NMDOT Transportation Project Fund prior to the May 31st deadline.

Project Feasibility Forms (PFF) Due on or before: (Must be submitted by appropriate RTPO Member) <i>(PFFs for TAP, RTP, CMAQ or CRP are encouraged to submit as soon as possible to allow for time to conduct consultation meeting with NMDOT)</i>	April 9, 2025 (JPTC meeting)	T/LPAs
PFF Review and Schedule Consultations: <i>(Consultations for TAP, RTP, CMAQ or CRP will be scheduled in late February early march to accommodate for application deadline)</i>	April 14 - 18	RTPO
Mandatory Project Consultation Meetings between RTPO Member, Local Entity Representative/Official, RTPO staff, DOT Liaison, and District Staff. Meeting Report due 5 working days after.	April 21 - April 25 (D6 in Milan D5 Virtually)	All agencies
0 Based on decision and recommendation by District staff, RTPO Member will be directed to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare and submit a Project Prospectus Form (PPF) for inclusion and prioritization in the Regional Transportation Improvement Program Recommendations (RTIPR), • Proceed to develop TPF application, or • Detail other options for projects and/or funding 	April 21 - 25 forward	RTPO and NDOT Staff
Technical Assistance, TPF Application review and PFF review Contact RTPO for TPF assistance (505-722-4327)	May 9 - 30	RTPO Staff and T/LPAs
Transportation Project Fund application deadline RTPO staff to submit TPF applications to NMDOT FTP website	May 30	RTPO and NDOT Staff
Project Prospectus Forms (PPF) due to RTPO	May 30	T/LPAs
Draft RTIPR	June 4, 2025	RTPO Staff
Project prioritization for RTIPR sections based on RTPO members consensus (primarily roadway, safety, and TPF top priority projects)	June 11, 2025 (JPTC meeting)	RTPO Staff & JPTC
Final RTIPR is approved by NWRTPO Committee	August 13, 2025 (JPTC meeting)	RTPO Staff & JPTC
District 6 RTIPR ("zipper") (including Catron and Sandoval Counties)	TBD	RTPO and NDOT Staff

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Planning & Development Office

Administration Changes

This quarter, we witnessed and followed the new Administration and the new direction it ushered in terms of economic policy, tariffs, and structural reforms to the Federal mission in economic development.

1. The Economic Planning & Development Office continues to focus on a couple of main initiatives:
2. Finding a new Program Manager and other capacity for this office.
3. Development of the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy and its process.
4. Continuation of its Assistance to Coal Communities Program #3 based on Federal approval.
5. Getting an award and grant agreement for our new three-year Planning Partnership Grant (PPG) to continue the COG's economic development program and office based on Federal approval.

CEDS Update

The COG is currently working on its 2025 update of the Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) that is the global, regional strategy for our three-county region in partnership with local economic development organizations (EDOs), our staff, and some consultants.

The first deliverable is to complete a review of the 7 goals and 21 strategies outlined in the plan to understand what get accomplished during this 5-year period of economic pivots, global pandemic, and energy transition. To accomplish this, the COG has set up a series of surveys to collect this information that will be rolled up into new CEDS 2025 framework, then over the next 12 months we will move that process into a full revision of the plan. These surveys are aimed at the EDO's and COG staff, but we could also use some knowledge Board members and managers input as well.

Surveys are up and open at: <https://www.nwnmcog.org/economic-development.html>

The new Administration did issued new CEDS regulations and guidelines that caused the COG to reflect and make sure our planning process was in line and compliant.



Finally, the COG has partnered with NM Economic Development Department and Harvard University to gain a masters student to work with on advancing this planning effort.

Assistance to Coal Communities

In the first year, the COG was able to support capacity at local economic development organizations with direct funding support of \$225,000. This year, the COG is targeting another round of about \$195,000 in direct support and a second opportunity for planning funds through our newly created “Plan and Partner for Prosperity” (P3) program. Continuation of capacity funding would allow local EDOs continue the important work of planning, developing, and recruiting industry to the region. We have heard this need loud and clear from our partners that flexible planning dollars are needed to create a pipeline for site development, scaling, and readiness.



Plan and Partner for Prosperity (P3) Program

In January 2025, the Northwest New Mexico Council of Governments launched a new program and financial offering called the “Plan and Partner for Prosperity” (P3) program.

Vision of the P3 Program: Investments for planning grants to eligible entities that align with the diversification strategies of the region driven by our regional Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS) to help plan, prototype, test, seed, and scale initiatives and projects. For example, funding might support the



development of a Growers’ Market in rural or tribal communities, provide a feasibility study for a catalytic tourism project like designating a National Recreation Area to support the outdoor recreation sector, or a target industry analysis for the budding hydrogen economy. We are encouraging proposals that support the development or expansion of the circular economy and create wealth that sticks by developing value chains based on the Wealthworks framework.

PLAN AND PARTNER FOR PROSPERITY (P3)

Moving from Boom-Bust to Robust

More information at: <https://www.nwnmcog.org/economic-development.html>

SPECIAL PROJECTS

Planning & Development Office

City of Aztec Asset Management Plan

As part of the Water Trust Board Application process, the COG assisted the City of Aztec with coordination on development of an Asset Management Plan in partnership with Southwest Environmental Finance Center.

The City of Aztec desired to develop an Asset Management Plan both for the City's benefit as well as to qualify for Water Trust Board Program funds to support the design of the South Aztec Water Transmission Line Project. The Southwest Environmental Finance Center offers resources, tools, trainings, and direct assistance to utilities in understanding and implementing asset management.

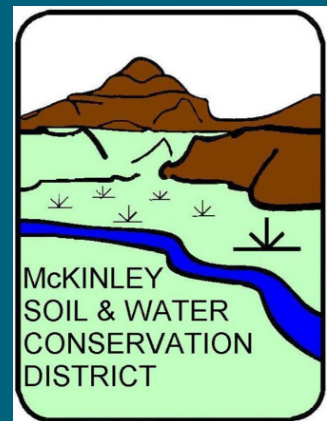
When completed, the Asset Management Plan will enhance sustainability and resilience of the City of Aztec's water and wastewater utilities and enable the city to utilize the Water Trust Board Program to support the health and safety of the local community.

McKinley Soil & Water Conservation District Support

Strategic Planning: During the third quarter of FY2025 the Northwest New Mexico Council of Governments (COG) and the McKinley Soil and Water Conservation District (MSWCD) partnered to conduct a strategic planning work session to explore how the two entities could leverage their partnership to provide sustainable services and opportunities for the communities they serve.

The goal of the strategic planning session was to develop a framework for MSWCD to build organizational capacity to advance implementation efforts of priority programs to improve soil health, enhance water conservation, and build resilience within the agricultural community of McKinley and Cibola Counties.

Together, the partners agreed to move forward to strategically plan for expansion of MSWCD services and implementation of priority projects within the shared service area of the COG and the MSWCD in Northwest New Mexico.

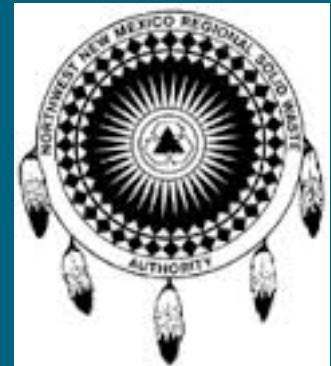


New Mexico Department of Agriculture Applications: The strategic planning session was the first step in the planning process to lay the groundwork for future program development and implementation. The results of the strategic planning session were twofold: (1) a strengthened overall partnership between the COG and the MSWCD; and (2) the development of a series of near-term action items to be implemented through this enhanced partnership.

The near-term action items included the development of proposals for two separate categories of the New Mexico Department of Agriculture's (NMDA) District Opportunities Grant program. The proposals consisted of applications for funding for Education and Outreach programming to provide opportunities for collaboration and information gathering amongst district residents and Capacity-Building to implement priority projects and build resilience within the agricultural community of Northwest New Mexico. The COG and MSWCD anticipate award notification during the fourth quarter of FY 2025.

NWNM Regional Solid Waste Authority Support

Composting Grant: During the third quarter of FY2025, the Northwest New Mexico Council of Governments (COG) partnered with the Northwest New Mexico Regional Solid Waste Authority (SWA) to develop an application to the Environmental Protection Agency funded Transformative Environmental Award for Members of Underserved Populations (TEAM UP) program. The planning and design project will investigate feasibility and plan for integration of organics recycling and composting into regional solid waste management programs to support economic, health, and environmental goals. Upon completion, this planning grant will enable project partners to develop a viable pathway to creating a sustainable regional recycling and composting program in Northwest New Mexico. The TEAM UP program administrators anticipate notification to successful applicants during the spring of 2025.



Outdoor Recreation

McKenzie Ridge Trail: Staff have completed NMDOT's Recreational Trails Program Application for 10 miles of trail construction on the McKenzie Ridge Connector of the Twin Springs Trail System in the Zuni Mountains – Cibola National Forest. Staff, on behalf of McKinley County and the Zuni Mountain Trail Partnership, were able to submit the application on the day of the deadline, March 21st, 2025, for the 2025-2026 federal fiscal year. Anticipated award funding, May 2025, would benefit recreationists who enjoy bicycling, hiking, equestrianism, cross-country skiing, and other outdoor activities. These 10 miles of the McKenzie Ridge Connector trail would intersect with future trails of the Twin Springs Trail System near Cottonwood Canyon, that are mostly in Cibola County. Numerous McKinley County officials, NMDOT representatives, and local area organizations have supported the RTP application. Local organizations such as the U.S. Forest Service, Adventure Gallup and Beyond, City of Gallup, Rehoboth McKinley Christian Health Care Services, Gallup Trails, and other key entities. The application met NMDOT's scoring factors:

- Planning
- Economic vitality
- Safety and Security
- Accessibility and Mobility through integration and connectivity
- Protection and enhancement of the environment
- Efficient system management
- System preservation
- Equity

The west end of the Zuni Mountain trail systems, within McKinley County, are McGaffey, Milk Ranch, Hilso, and McKenzie Ridge Connector (when complete) would serve recreationists with approximately 82 miles of trail.



LEGISLATIVE

Update

Legislators have returned from Santa Fe after the grueling 60-day legislative session. During the legislative session, 194 bills were passed by lawmakers, a number were vetoed by the Governor for a variety of reasons. Several bills will be enacted, many of which have significant implications for Northwest New Mexico, particularly in areas such as public safety, healthcare, and economic development. While there are several individual bills to cover, this report focuses on what we call “Money Bills”. These bills provide operating budgets, provide funding for new programs, and fund individual projects. The following is a summary the “Money Bills”:



House Bill 2 - General Appropriations Act “ Budget Bill”

House Bill 2 & 3 – The General Appropriations Act allocates \$10.8 billion in state funding for Fiscal Year 2026. This represents a 6% increase from the Fiscal Year 2025 budget. The bill left the Governor’s office mostly intact with only 0.03% (\$331M) of the total proposed budget being vetoed.

HB2 General Appropriations Act included the following highlights:

- **Public Education:** \$4.7 billion in recurring general fund appropriations for public education, a 6% increase over the FY25 operating budget; a 4% salary increase for school personnel; \$4.5 billion from the general fund to the student equalization guarantee, \$38.5 million for career and technical education and innovation zones; \$20.3 million for educator fellows initiatives; \$30 million for Indian education initiatives; \$(2.1 million to support unhoused students (GRO); \$1 million for wellness rooms, and \$1.5 million for School Safety. Several other appropriations for public education are outlined in the bill.
- **Healthcare:** \$15 billion to the Health Care Authority (HCA) a 23% increase; \$1.7 million to the Administrative Office of the Courts for regional behavioral health planning; \$11.5 million for 24 mobile crisis response; \$7.5 million for 24-hour crisis response facilities and services; \$28 million for grants to local governments for regional transitional acute care facilities and certified community behavioral health clinics; \$10 million for grants to local and tribal governments for assisted outpatient treatment, medication-assisted treatment, assertive community treatment or other evidence-informed services, and \$11.5 million for grants to local and tribal governments for mobile crisis and recovery response and intervention and outreach teams; \$110 million to DFA for transitional housing and behavioral health supports; \$8.1 million for start-up costs to build capacity for housing providers; \$5 million for local governments to support housing encampment response; \$2 million for housing for seniors; and \$2 million to expand reentry services including housing opportunities.

- **Commerce and Industry:** \$30.5 million for NMEDD recurring budget, an increase of 6.5%, \$4 million for creative industries; \$7.8 million for diversifying and promoting the state's economy; \$2 million for healthy food financing; \$15 million for entrepreneurship incubators, accelerators and venture studios; \$2 million for marketing and trade shows; \$40 million to establish a research, development, and deployment fund; \$13 million for outdoor recreation programs; \$15 million for physical economic development and innovation hubs; \$10.8 million for private sector recruitment; \$8 million for advanced energy award pilot program; \$24 million for site readiness; \$4 million for science and technology business start-ups; and \$50M for the Trade Port Development Fund.



Source: Sen. George Muñoz, (D-Gallup). (Eddie Moore / Albuquerque Journal)

- **Special Appropriations:** Including within HB2 are special one-time appropriations dedicated to increase and expand capacity of existing state programs, fund the establishment of new programs approved during the session, and direct appropriations for specific projects with catalytic impact to community and the State of New Mexico. The following are special appropriations included in HB2 that could support existing and future efforts to improve communities in Northwest New Mexico (appropriations not already listed above):
 - » **Behavioral Health & Housing** - \$110M for transitional housing and behavioral health services; \$28M for grants for regional transitional acute care facilities and certified community behavioral health clinics; \$10M for grants to behavioral health providers based on submitted regional plans for assisted outpatient treatment, medication assisted treatment for juveniles, assertive community treatment and other best practices; \$50M for priorities identified in regional plans; \$5M for grants to support direct-to-housing encampment response; \$2M for housing assistance personnel and programs; \$2M for consulting and strategic planning to support innovative models to end homelessness.
 - » **Capacity Building** - \$3M for continuation of the capacity building program.
 - » **Regional Recreation & Quality of Life** - \$50M for continuation of the Regional Recreation & Quality of Life program.
 - » **Tourism** - \$1.9M for the NMTD Destination Forward program; \$2M for the marketing excellence bureau; \$18M for national marketing including Route 66 centennial celebration, litter pick-up, and Connie Mack World Series.
 - » **Community Benefit Fund** - \$20M to provide competitive grants to develop or enhance energy efficiency technology, renewable energy technology, batteries and other systems, contingent on enactment of SB48.
 - » **Forest Restoration** - \$20M for forest management, restoration, thinning and vegetation management.
 - » **Critical Water & Wastewater Infrastructure** - \$5M for implementation of Water Security Planning Act; \$3M for water treatment plant in Gallup; \$1M to support the regionalization of water systems; \$2.75M for regionalization of water systems and the development of the utility operator workforce.
 - » **Airports** - \$4.5M for regional airport improvements; \$12M for rural air service programs.
 - » **Heavy Equipment** - \$12M for heavy equipment split between NMDOT Districts
 - » **State Roadway Maintenance** - \$65M for maintenance of roadways split between the NMDOT districts.
 - » **Beautification** - \$8M for the NM roadway beautification program.
 - » **Transportation Project Fund** - \$38M for the transportation project fund

Other staple bills such as capital outlay (HB450) and capital outlay reauthorization (SB425), and others also provided significant investment and support for communities and their projects.

House Bill 450 - Capital Outlay Bill

HB450 authorizes approximately \$1.2 billion in new one-time capital outlay project spending for public agencies and institutions. The bill also authorized \$595 million for local government projects like schools, water and sewer infrastructure, public safety facilities, housing development, parks, roads, community facilities, etc. HB450 provided approximately **\$64M** in funding to local governments, special districts, and tribal entities in Northwest New Mexico!

San Juan County
\$35,898,000

McKinley County
\$18,062,000

Cibola County
\$10,325,000

Senate Bill 425 - Capital Outlay Reauthorization Bill

The Governor was presented with 423 projects needing reauthorization for time extension, scope change, or to move funding from one entity to another. Much discussion has been made about the reauthorization process and the significant amount of public funding not being spent. Legislators have voiced frustration, and the Governor has reiterated the same frustration and has vetoed 112 capital outlay reauthorization requests. This represents 26% of all submissions included in SB425. According to the bill posted with the Governor's line-time vetoes, our Northwest New Mexico communities was significantly impacted:

Cibola County	McKinley County	San Juan County
▪ Total Proposed - 6	▪ Total Proposed - 41	▪ Total Proposed - 336
▪ Approved - 4	▪ Approved - 27	▪ Approved - 20
▪ Vetoed - 2	▪ Vetoed - 14	▪ Vetoed - 16

Legislative Assistance Provided by the COG

Legislative Forums

2

Capital Requests

85

Governor Requests

25

Reauthorizations

10+

Weeks in Santa Fe

3

Hours Dedicated

750+