

NWRTPO | Northwest Regional Transportation Planning Organization
 Joint Policy & Technical Committee
 NWRTPO Meeting Minutes

Wednesday October 13, 2021
 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
 Virtual meeting executed via Microsoft Teams
 Due to COVID-19 Pandemic

ATTENDANCE:

Local & Tribal Governments	
Entity	Representative(s)
Pueblo of Acoma	Dave Deutsawe (Chair)
Pueblo of Laguna	Gaylord Siow , Elroy Keetso
Pueblo of Zuni	Royce Gchachu , Roxanne Hughte
Navajo Nation	Larry Joe, Marco Sells , Leanne Roy
Ramah Navajo	Dorothy Claw , Tom Martine
City of Grants	Don Jaramillo , Mark Teshima
City of Gallup	Clyde Strain, Alicia Santiago
Village of Milan	Denise Baca , Felix Gonzales
Cibola County	Edward Salazar , Judy Horacek
McKinley County	Rodney Skersick , Mindi Macias
San Juan County	Absent (Nick Porell)
Farmington Metropolitan Planning Organization - Ex-officio	Not in attendance

New Mexico Department of Transportation (NMDOT)	
Entity	Representative(s)
RTPO Liaison	Neala Krueger
District 5	Stephanie Medina , James Mexia
District 6	JoAnn Garcia , Bill Santiago , Arif Kazmi, Michael Neely
Tribal Liaison	Ron Shutiva
DOT Central Regional Design Office	James Sanchez, Juan Archuletta
Other NMDOT Staff / Guests	Name - NMDOT,

Regional Transportation Planning Organization	
Entity	Representative(s)
Northwest NM Council of Governments	Robert Kuipers

Tally Sheet – Attendance & Quorum

Total Full Attendance:	Member Entities:	NMDOT	RTPO	Guests	Full Attendance Norm:	
	12	Normally 4-5: DOT Liaison, Tribal Liaison, District 5 & 6 Representatives	1	varies	17 - 20	
Attendance – this meeting:	Member Attendance:	NMDOT Attendance:	Staff:	Guests:	Attendance % this meeting:	TOTAL:
	9	7	1		85%	17

ROUTINE ITEMS:

Item #	Item
I.	Call to Order and Introductions. The meeting was called to order at 10:09 am, Bob Kuipers welcomed those in attendance, and Don Jaramillo proceeded with introductions and approval of agenda and minutes. The virtual meeting was conducted via Microsoft Teams, due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
II.	Agenda. RTPO Program Manager provided an overview of the day’s agenda topics and RTPO Vice-Chair called for a motion: ACTION: Royce Gchachu – Pueblo of Zuni - motioned; Judy Horaceck – Cibola County - seconded adoption of the agenda. All in favor – motion carried.
III.	Minutes (August 11, 2021). Vice-Chair provided time for review of minutes and there were no revisions requested, ACTION: Royce Gchachu – Pueblo of Zuni motioned; Denise Baca – Village of Milan seconded adoption of the minutes. All in favor – motion carried.

Discussion: No discussion

ACTION ITEMS:

Item #	Item	Presenter
IV.	Call for Projects Process	Robert Kuipers – RTPO Staff
BACKGROUND		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Why? As our virtual meetings are continuing due to the ongoing pandemic, we’ll have each member gov’t. identify their top priority project for Roadway and Bridge RTIPR sections. Only TAP and RTP projects with complete packages will be cited at top priority – all others for members who only submitted PFF’s and PPF’s rather than complete packages will be cited below and unprioritized). Note though the additional documentation requirements for TAP and RTP application packages under “Current Work” below, which were due September 10. Based on member responses to Roadway Vetting (not at this meeting) staff will report prioritization for Roadway projects at our November meeting. Purpose. Reduce the time and competition required around project prioritization. Discussion/Finalization. Members will be asked to support this method for our Call for Projects to complete the FFY2022 RTIPR. 		
CURRENT WORK		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members to consider and identify their top priority project for the Roadway, Bridge, TAP and RTP sections of the RTIPR. Members that did not submit complete TAP and RTP application packages (application form with cover page, table of contents, PFF, PPF, Application, Supporting Resolution or official letter from chief local gov’t. executive with budget authority, ROW support letters and project map) can cite their project in the RTIPR, but can’t complete for prioritization until FFY2023. Staff sent guidance for these additional documentation requirements to RTPO members on a number of times in the past. 		
ANTICIPATED WORK		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RTPO members to consider and approve this process at our October meeting RTPO staff will subsequently cite projects within and develop our draft RTIPR for review in November and Finalization in December. Final RTIPR to be approved in January or February 2022 District 6 (and Dist. 5?) RTIP (Zipper) in March, 2022. 		
ATTACHMENTS		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Summary document for projects proposed for our FFY2021-2022 RTIPR 2021 Call for Projects Guidance Additional guidance for Bridge, TAP, RTP and CMAQ RTIPR positioning without competitive prioritization. 		
BUDGET IMPACT		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None 		
ACTION ITEM		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members will vote to approve a competitive process for project prioritization for Roadway projects only – for all other RTIPR categories the top priority project for each government in the Bridge, TAP and RTP section will be cited on top of these sections (pending complete applications for TAP & RTP), with all other proposed projects cited below. Incomplete TAP & RTP project submissions (ie. just a PFF & PPF) will be listed below those for which complete applications were submitted. 		

IV. Call for Projects Discussion: There was considerable discussion on this item, as initially we anticipated no prioritization competition this year, however, with 22 Roadway projects submitted, in some cases up to three or four from

a single government, for this section of the RTIPR we are asking our members to identify their single top priority project and provide information on the following questions:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Location of project • Need for project • Impact to community 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consistency with other plans (2020 Reg. Trans. Plan, ICIP, Comprehensive Plan, etc.) • Cost • Match • Readiness
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For the Bridge section member governments submitting only one project will be placed in the top priority section, and two of our governments submitting two to three projects will select their top priority project for the top priority section and their other projects will be cited below.

For TAP, RTP and CMAQ projects – only those who have submitted complete application packages will be cited as top priority. For RTPO members who only submitted a PFF and PPF (not a complete application package per guidance provided to members a number of times) – these projects will be un-ranked, and cited below the top priority projects.

Transportation Project Fund projects will remain un-prioritized as in previous RTIPR’s, as the next round of funding is not anticipated until 2023. On the other hand for the 2021 round of TPF funding our region was awarded a total of \$22,415,160 for 11 of our projects on behalf of 9 of our NWRTPO member govts., and 5 projects for 4 of the Farmington MPO govts.; along with a project approved for Tohajiilee Chapter from the MRRTPO. This entails a NMDOT TPF award of \$21,294,404, with \$1,120,756 in local matching funds for the total of \$22,415,160.

After considerable discussion to clarify and make sure our members were clear on our prioritization process for the Roadway, Bridge, TAP, RTP, CMAQ and TPF sections of our RTIPR, **Gaylord Siow – Pueblo of Laguna motioned to approve, Royce Gchachu – Pueblo of Zuni seconded, and all participating RTPO members were in favor.**

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Item #	Item	Presenter
V.	Transportation Project Fund	Robert Kuipers – RTPO Staff
BACKGROUND		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why? For the first and second round of LGTPF – now called Transportation Project Fund from the State of New Mexico the NWRTPO and it’s members were exceptionally successful. • Purpose. NWRTPO staff want to consult with RTPO members regarding progress with their FFY2019 awarded projects to see how many are complete or close to completion. The deadline for completion for the first round of LGTPF projects is June 30, 2022. • Discussion/Finalization. Members are asked to push their respective govt. leaders to complete 2019 awarded projects by this deadline or seek an extension, to maintain our strong reputation with the NM Department of Transportation. 		
CURRENT WORK		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members to report on progress toward completion for FFY2019 awarded projects. • Members asked to consult with their respective leaders to complete 2019 LGTPF projects by the June 30, 2022 deadline or request an extension; and commence their currently awarded projects in the near future (ASAP) in order to maintain our region’s reputation with NMDOT. 		
ANTICIPATED WORK		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members are asked to push for 2019 project completion by the June 30, 2022 deadline, and commence currently awarded projects for efficient execution toward completion, to continue the strong reputation for the NWRTPO around responsible project management and completion within timelines. 		
ATTACHMENTS		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FFY2019 awarded projects • FFY2021 awarded projects 		
BUDGET IMPACT		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None 		
ACTION ITEM		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N/A 		

Discussion:

- As stated in Action Item IV) in the 2021 round of TPF funding our region was awarded a total of \$22,415,160 for 11 of our projects on behalf of 9 of our NWRTPO member govts, and 5 projects for 4 of the Farmington MPO govts; along with a project approved for Tohajiilee Chapter from the MRRTPO. This entails a NMDOT TPF award of \$21,294,404, with \$1,120,756 in local matching funds for the total of \$22,415,160.
- In order to maintain a strong reputation with the NMDOT for completing our projects according to funding guidance and timelines, staff requested reports from members on where we are with our FFY2018-2019 LGTPF projects. The deadline for completing these projects is June 30, 2022. The resulting reports were quite positive as follows:
- Cibola County: County Road 18B funded at \$950,000 – the County is already in the process of requesting an extension from NMDOT
- Gallup – East Nizhoni Blvd Reconstruction funded at \$350,000 – **completion anticipated in December, 2021**
- Grants – Washington Ave. Bridge replacement funded at \$1,500,000 – **complete**
- McKinley County – Manuelito Canyon Bridge & Road Improvements funded at \$3,000,000 – **complete**
- Village of Milan – Haystack Phase 2 funded at \$126,577 – **complete**
- Navajo Nation – Baahaalil Chapter – Solid Waste Transfer Station Access road funded at \$296,250 – **complete**
- Navajo Nation – Twin Lakes Chapter US491 Road Safety Audit (RSA) funded at \$150,000 – extension request anticipated
- Navajo Nation – Mexican Springs Chapter – RSA funded at \$20,000 – extension request anticipated
- Navajo Nation – Tohatchi Chapter – RSA funded at \$75,000 – extension request anticipated
- Pueblo of Acoma – SP130 Veterans Blvd Roadway – funded at \$1,196,749 – **complete**
- Pueblo of Laguna – Interstate 40 Concrete Box Underpass – funded at \$2,000,000 – in negotiation with NMDOT District 6 to change expanding the concrete box underpass to an I-40 bridge overpass for the L24 Rainfall Road that currently uses the underpass. This change was recommended from NMDOT District 6, so hoping in that case that the NMDOT will approve the project change and extension.

Item #	Item	Presenter
VI.	NMDOT new Map Guide	Neala Krueger – NMDOT Liaison
BACKGROUND		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why? The NMDOT has developed a new mapping tool that can support MPO and RTPO transportation development along with presentations • Purpose. Acquaint the NWRTPO members with this tool for their use as / when needed • Discussion/Finalization. Acquaint RTPO members with this mapping tool available from NMDOT 		
CURRENT WORK		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Present NMDOT Map Guide 		
ANTICIPATED WORK		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members can use this tool for transportation development and presentations 		
ATTACHMENTS		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Map Guide guidance 		
BUDGET IMPACT		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None 		
ACTION ITEM		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N/A 		

Discussion:

Ms. Krueger – our NWRTPO NMDOT Liaison provided a strong and in-depth yet efficient presentation on the new NMDOT Mapping Tool. She brought up the tool and demonstrated how to navigate many of the information sources within the tool for regional, multimodal transportation development. The mapping tool has an impressive 29 different mapping sections, with an incredible amount of information available for a wide variety of transportation infrastructure, corridors, services and multimodal aspects (*railroad, roadways, trails, airports, byways, bridges, transit, etc.*) within the State of New Mexico.

Item #	Topic	Presenter
VII.	Reports, Updates & Announcements	Robert Kuipers - NWRTPO
BACKGROUND		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why? Update RTPO members on news, training, funding, and other items of special interest • Purpose. Keep RTPO members up to date on critical information from NWRTPO and NMDOT sources 		
Informational Items		
Regional News & Updates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional Work Program Status Report • RTPO Monthly Report • Member Reports 		
Member Special Reports: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None this meeting 		
NMDOT Reports: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • G to G Liaison: Neala Krueger • Tribal Liaison: Ron Shutiva • District 6: JoAnn Garcia & staff; District 5: James Mexia, Stephanie Medina 		
News, Training & Funding Opportunities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>FHWA Planning, Environment & Realty Reports</u>: 9/22/21 • <u>NMDOT Govt. to Govt. Update</u>: none • <u>AASHTO Publications</u>: none • <u>NMDOT / UNM-LTAP</u>: Provides a very robust collection of training opportunities – staff forward news to members as it comes out from this source – reference at ltap.unm.edu – Online courses notice forwarded to members as LTAP emails come in. • <u>Title VI Training</u> is available to MPO’s and RTPO’s from Lisa Neie – Civil Rights Manager for FHWA New Mexico. These trainings can be customized to address member concerns and issues for their regions, if provided to her in advance. • <u>Every Day Counts News</u>: 9/2/21, 9/16/21, 10/5/21 • <u>FEMA’s Hazard Mitigation Assistance Program</u>: 9/2/21 • <u>USDOT Innovator Newsletter</u>: 9/7/21, 10/5/21 • <u>Reminder on additional documentation</u>: required for TAP, RTP, and CMAQ project applications: 9/14/21 • <u>Reminder on LGTPF 2019 awarded projects</u>: due for completion by June 30, 2022 • <u>Annual Member Survey for FFY2021</u>: initially sent to members 9/14/21 - Survey Monkey link sent 9/29/21 • <u>Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe Steam Locomotive 2926</u>: display and open house by NM Railroad Historical Society – Sept. 25 at 1833 8th St. in Albuquerque – 9am to 5pm: 9/14/21 • <u>Announcement</u>: Lisa Vega is the new NMDOT lead District 6 Engineer: 9/28/21 		

Members please note: none of these documents will be included in the full meeting package due to the physical size and the electronic megabyte size going forward – all of the cited documents have already been emailed in advance of the RTPO monthly meeting to our NWRTPO members. Some of the citations are ongoing from month to month regarding ongoing training or funding opportunities.

Discussion:

No discussion of significance other than member and DOT staff reports cited below.

Local Member Reports (<i>significant news only</i>)	By Entity
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New news in bold

Pueblo of Acoma

- CMGC2 – 1: Construction of new office for Transportation and other Departments is underway – anticipated completion has been delayed by COVID-19. **At this time building construction is complete.**
- CMGC2-2 SP130 Veterans Blvd. – Project is complete.
- **CMGC2- 3 . Baseball Fields improvement is now complete.**
- **CMGC2 – 4 Projects are now complete:** (*request for proposals for this new bundle of projects was published 2/10/19*)
- The Pueblo is now doing construction to increase its water irrigation system.
- FEMA 4352 Large Projects All FEMA Large projects have been completed (104 projects!) - \$13 million a year ahead of time; the Pueblo is now addressing finishing the small projects and only has one to go.
- **The Pueblo has completed their update to their Long-Range Transportation Plan**; WH Pacific will do traffic analysis counts to contribute to the Pueblo’s LRTP. To mitigate COVID 19 delays, the Pueblo has developed a survey for public input which is also available on Survey Monkey.
- **The Pueblo is also updating their Transportation Safety Plan at this time.** Public involvement meetings are postponed due to COVID-19, which will delay completion dates for these plans; **however, thru distributing a survey at the local Food Pantry, the Pueblo has achieved a 41% response rate from the public for both transportation plans!**
- **FEMA 4352:** Small Projects: Recovery work has begun; the POA Public Works / Utility Authority was awarded the small projects (65) at \$2.2 million capital investment. 45 projects have been completed; 22 projects remain. **All projects have been completed at this time.**
- Arrowhead Drive new construction project is now complete.
- Capital Outlay: The Pueblo has proposed a restart date of May 18 to resume work.
- Mainstreet Project: The Pueblo will add several projects to the CMGC suite to include projects for housing and economic development. Preparing amendments to conduct engineering studies, land surveys, geotechnical studies, drainage analysis, right of way surveys and proforma.

Pueblo of Zuni

- The Pueblo is under lock down with little administrative activity due to COVID-19 pandemic; the Pueblo has extended re-opening until sometime in the future, depending on how long COVID-19 persists.
- Bid packages for Shiwi Ts’ana Elementary School access and Z301 / NM53 intersection improvements were opened July 12 – with one bid submitted. Notice of award offered to Albuquerque Sparling Construction company for both projects combined.
- Zuni purchased a dump truck with FHWA Coronavirus funds.
- The Pueblo is looking to purchase a backup generator for the Andrew Othole Memorial Airport.
- **Zuni Transportation Dept. submitted documents to the Governors Office to fund two historical and cultural sites of significance with related road improvement projects.**
- **US Dept. of Treasury set aside \$20 billion for Native American Tribes under American Rescue Plan. Zuni received it’s first distribution – Road Dept. will submit road improvement project that leads to significant historical site for tourism**
- **Road maintenance projects continue related to flooding around the Pueblo.**
- Royce is now also the Airport Manager. Receipt of FAA grant agreement for developing an Airport Master Plan for the Andrew Othole Memorial (AOM) Airport. The master plan will be developed by the Pueblo’s airport consultant – Armstrong Consultant’s, Inc.
- **Erin Kenley, TTP Director and Brian Allen, TTP Fields Operation Manager – both from the Office of Tribal Transportation visited Zuni on August 10 and met with the Governor and Tribal Council on a number of issues. Discussed the tribal self-governance program within the US DOT and FHWA.**
- The Pueblo continues to update its long-range transportation plan. The plan is now in final draft form and being put out on the Pueblo website and Facebook for public comment. The draft plan is awaiting recommendations for next steps on how to present to the public.
- The pedestrian trail project plan is now 100% complete – will move forward for FHWA approval.
- On-call A/E consultants are working on designs for Ruins Road, North/South Sandy Springs Road, Harker Circle, the intersection of Ojo Caliente/Pia Mesa and pedestrian trails. Ruins Road is now at 95% completion.

- Ongoing road maintenance around the Pueblo. This includes crews addressing mowing, culvert repairs, blading gravel or dirt roads, asphalt pothole repairs and vegetation control.
- Virtual Presentation meeting with NMDOT and WHPacific on the NM53 Drainage project being designed by WHPacific to make improvements from MP15.5 to 19, due to undersized culvert pipes and overtopping of flood waters on NM53 (also Zuni Mainstreet). First meeting was held on October 7.
- There are demolition projects in the Pueblo for the Lemon Tree/Zuni Laundromat building and the old Zuni Water Dept. building.
- The Pueblo is undertaking construction of an RV Park.
- The Pueblo has worked with Ashiwi Transit and Gallup Express to extend transit service to the Ramah Navajo area.
- The Pueblo has engaged contractual on call engineering services for future transportation development.
- The Ashiwi transit system received a national award at the 2019 National RTAP (*Rural Transportation Assistance Program*) conference.
- Ashiwi Transit will resume when all safety precautionary measures have been installed on the transit vehicles. Local and Gallup services will resume on a limited basis, but only on demand or appointments. Extension to Ramah / Pinehill is temporarily on hold until further notice around COVID-19 concerns. Ashiwi Transit is now back in service.

McKinley County

- **Pending projects for the County include CR-19 improvements and Deer Springs Road for base course.**
- **Woodview Road 1.5 miles of Chipseal in Prewitt is now complete. Hillcrest and Bowman Roads are also complete.**
- The County is finishing their Local Government Road Fund projects including the Thoreau Town Site project at \$776K for cold mix overlay, for which the County has rented a milling machine. Certifications are complete for all LGRF projects and the County is requesting an extension till Spring – 2020 to complete maintenance construction which will include paving for CR-1 in Mentmore. Brasier Asphalt Co. has completed contract work on Thoreau Townsite roads. The County is waiting to complete this project by fog sealing the roads with the last of this funding.
- Brasier Asphalt Co. has completed contract work on CR1 – Mentmore.
- The County has almost completed chip-sealing CR-1 – Defiance Draw – will complete with fog-sealing remaining.
- TIF: \$1.2 million awarded for 10 miles of Deer Springs Road improvement – project on hold until Spring of 2020 for Mexican Springs Chapter. NDOT is contributing Fuel Excise Tax funding. Funding will allow drainage improvements, five miles of gravel base improvement and three miles of chip-seal.
- TIF: \$1.3 million awarded for 18 miles of CR19 gravel and chip-seal road improvement – multiple Eastern Navajo Chapters; collaborating with NDOT for road repairs and renovation. NDOT is contributing Fuel Excise Tax funding. Project has commenced, but completion may take until Spring of 2022 around weather issues.
- **The County had their ribbon cutting ceremony for Manuelito Canyon bridge replacement on September 10 – the event was well attended by State and regional legislative leaders along with President Jonathon Nez of the Navajo Nation.**
- The County will benefit with \$23 million for improvements to the Carbon Coal Road intersection in Gamerco with US491, which leads to the developing Energy Logistics Park (and potential Inland Port).
- The County has finished chip sealing Pine Haven road; will use remaining funds to finish improvements on Allison road.
- **Coal Basin Road was completed by the end of June.**
- **County Road 6 – Cousins Road to commence repairs in August thru October.**
- Ongoing county-wide maintenance including blading, patching potholes, cleaning culverts, repairing bridges / guardrails, etc. **The County has completed the ZMTP Milk Ranch Trail Head.**

Gallup

- **Gallup Mainstreet Project** – Ground breaking May 13; construction commenced July 1. Coal Avenue Commons both MAP and Legislative Agreements have been executed by the State. The City is working with Wilson & Co. and NMDOT District 6 on the final PS&E. City Council approved Wilson & Co.'s professional engineering proposal for construction management. The Mainstreet grant resolution was approved by City Council for this project. **Between MAP, State Legislative, Economic and City funding the Coal Avenue Commons project phase 1 is now complete with final walk thru executed 7/20/21. Final street lighting is scheduled for completion in mid September. The City is now seeking funding for phase 2 and has submitted an application for the NM Transportation Project Fund – and has been awarded \$3,500,000 from this fund to complete this project.**

- **East Nizhoni and West Aztec improvements are currently in design phase – East Nizhoni design at 75%; West Aztec is at 30% design - received news from NMDOT Dist. 6 that the City was awarded MAP funding for East Nizhoni Ave - \$900,000.** W. Aztec drainage legislative grant has been executed and engineering services have been awarded to begin design; notice of obligation has been submitted and approved by the state. **2nd phase for East Nizhoni will be the College Drive and Nizhoni intersection.**
- **Local Govt. Road Fund funded projects have commenced mill and overlay for planned roads; received word from NMDOT Dist. 6 that the City was awarded funds for our next project.**
- The City has submitted a Letter of Intent for Coop funding.
- **Federal Aviation Admin. application for \$5 million has been submitted for our airport taxi-way and connectors.**

Milan

No report yet for this meeting – as the new village manager just quit.

Ramah

- Condolences to the community for the loss of Shane Lewis, who accomplished significant transportation development on behalf of the Ramah Navajo community.
- Ramah Navajo has filled two positions after the departure of Shane Lewis with Dorothy Claw as primary transportation developer and Tom Martine as transportation assistant – these individuals are also the primary and alternative representatives to the NWRTPO.
- **BIA 175 is the next new project for Ramah Navajo – seeking funding at this time.**
- **Working on signage for BIA 125 and 122.**
- **Completed PFF's for NM53 & BIA 125 intersection and Pine Hill school pedestrian ADA improvements.**
- **Some weather related road maintenance and repair going on at this time.**
- Dorothy and Tom are acclimating with ongoing Ramah transportation projects at this time and updating the Ramah Long Range Transportation Plan, completing an annual report, and looking for training opportunities.
- Acting executive director for Ramah Navajo Chapter's 638 Grants & Contract Programs issued a memorandum for employees to return back to work and follow CDC guidelines within each Chapter program RNDOT is back in operation and continues to maintain roadways.
- BIA Projects Update:
 - BIA 125 mp 18 – 24.6 – received approved design exception report for this project from FHWA and will move to finalize the project. BIA 125 MP 0 – 4.4 received approval from NNHPO on the updated Cultural Report document and Categorical Exclusion. Awaiting ROW documents for BIA 195 in Ramah Band Land to RN Realty Office. BIA 113 and 145 received final report and will review final documents with tribal officials
 - BIA 195: submitted ROW documents to RN Realty Office; **more focus on this road going forward.**
 - BIA 145 and BIA 113: Received draft report for BIA 145 and BIA 113. **More focus on BIA 145 going forward.**
- RNDOT Transportation Technician is vacant and will advertise for the position.
- Submitted grant applications for the NOFO on Tribal Transportation Program Safety Funds.
- BIA 125 striping project is complete; **BIA 125 mp 0-4 and mp12 – 24.6 are now construction ready.**
- NMDOT LGRF received all certifications and submitted a letter of disbursement. Awaiting on contractor to return signed Notice of Award for BIA 125 striping project.
- Cancelled Transportation Committee Meetings until COVID-19 Restrictions are lifted.
- Submitted road signs replacement maintenance project for 2021 LGRF cycle.
- NMDOT LGRF received some certifications and will coordinate with Utility providers. Received ROW certification and submitted letter requesting disbursement.
- Assisting with RN Community Development Department for the Navajo Nation Rural Addressing Project.
- Ongoing general maintenance for area roads, cattle guards and signage, blading and shaping, potholes and base course patching (incl. school bus routes). Cleaning and replacing roadway signs. Field fence repairs, post replacements and gate repairs.
- **Ramah Navajo has submitted a BUILD Grant application.**

Cibola County

- **Cibola County has hired a new Road Superintendent by the name of Ed Salazar.**
- The County is doing “blade and shape” maintenance on 84.7 miles of 14 County Roads; and a variety of other maintenance (cattle guards / culverts / sign repair / tree trimming & weed control / mowing / pot-hole patching / and minor road repairs) for 24 county roads.
- ZMTP RTP trail project is funded for FFY2020 construction – working with McKinley County for trails development beginning with the Quartz Hill Trail Head. Construction will likely not proceed until FFY2021 Spring & Summer for the Cibola portion of the Zuni Mountain Recreational Trails. **Cibola County has now been cleared to be the fiscal agent for this project and will no longer need McKinley County’s assistance; trail development and construction is commencing. Cibola, COG and NMDOT staff had a virtual internal planning meeting on Jan. 19 at 9am with Arnold from the Forest Service to discuss updated scope of work for this project. The County has commenced work on the Trail Head project.**
- CR-18B and CR1 road / bridge projects are current priorities. CR-18B awarded LGTPF funding – LGTPF contract is complete and submitted. CR18-B – RFP closed Friday – 12/4 and are currently reviewing applications – much appreciation to JoAnn Garcia from NMDOT District 6. Two firms responded to the RFP and the Cibola Commission will determine the award at their January 14 meeting. **CR18-B will commence soon – drainage work is at 8%.**
- Coop projects will begin soon.
- Ongoing County wide maintenance for County and Forest Roads.

Grants

- The City recently had a ribbon cutting ceremony for the pedestrian bridge on 2nd Street. **The bridge and channel are almost completed.**
- Riverwalk trail: Design at 100% from WHPacific, Project is on hold for the time being.
- First Street phase 2 – Adams to Roosevelt: design at 100%; added a pond and lift station on Geis Street for drainage; allotted \$1.8 million from 2019 state legislature for **final phase 3 from Washington to Roosevelt which was recently awarded and is currently at 45%**. Final PS&E was scheduled for this August and project letting is scheduled for September. Total project stands at \$6.2 million.
- 2nd street bridge out to bid for construction to commence in July – delay due to COVID-19 pandemic.
- Washington bridge replacement over 2nd Street through LGTPF funding will include a walking opportunity for High School students; project construction is underway – commenced in June.
- Lobo Canyon and Roosevelt intersection improvements are underway and ongoing.

Pueblo of Laguna

- **The Pueblo remains closed to the public, and administration is closed until the COVID-19 Pandemic resides. For I-40 MP 111 – 117 exists are closed to the Pueblo. Access NM124 via I-40 MP108 and 117 exits.**
- **Gaylord informed COG RTPO staff that the Pueblo has six official villages – not seven – staff will execute this correction going forward.**
- **Gaylord Siow has returned to help manage Transportation Development for the Pueblo; Gaylord will now be the primary RTPO representative and Elroy Keetso will be the alternate. Sharon Hausam has left the Pueblo.**
- **The Pueblo is consulting with the MRRTPPO for Laguna Pueblo lands within their jurisdiction.**
- The Pueblo is pursuing an FHWA grant to develop a Pueblo-wide (all Villages / roads) Safety Plan and will be seeking data sources identifying various crash incidents, and high crash incident locations; may need assistance from the RTPO or DOT with analyzing crash data. The Pueblo has a number of State Routes, where high speeds impact upon more fatal crashes.
- NM124 Bike and Pedestrian Trail – Paraje to the Kawaika Center project is complete – working with NMDOT for close out.
- NM124 Bike and Pedestrian Trail Encinal Road to State Road 279 is complete and in close out.
- NM124 Rio San Jose to Roundabout bike & ped path: Design is complete. PS&E checklist is complete – project planned to be let February – March, 2021
- L26 Rainfall Road from Cubero Wash to Seama bridge M108: **Construction has been completed**, including a bike & ped. trail. Final audits in progress **and project is in close-out.**

- M137 bridge at Laguna Subdivision: **Construction complete and project in close out with BIA.**
- Mill, Overlay, Striping & Enhancement Projects: Construction is complete for L503 – Veterans Memorial Road, L200 Postal Postal Road and L245 Raindrop Road. **The Pueblo is developing the next phase on four BIA routes: LGRF/BIA Road Maintenance Striping Projects – phase 2 & 3: Phase 2 – L500 Mountain Ash Loop and L500 Central Park Road; Phase 3 – L540 Veterans Memorial Road and L200 Elizabeth Bender Road. No bids were received so the Pueblo is working with NMDOT to sole-source these projects.**
- LGRF / BIA Road Maintenance Mill, Overlay & Striping Projects: Phase 2 & 3: Phase 2 – the Pueblo is working on the next phase for four BIA routes: phase 2 for L500 Mountain Ash Loop and Central Park roads. Phase 3 for L540 – Veterans Memorial Road and L200 Elizabeth Bender Road. **Contract amendments submitted and received. Local Govt. Road Fund and trail projects to commence soon.**
- NM 124 Roundabout: The repairs to the roundabout are being coordinated by NMDOT, no start date has been determined. **NM124 Road Diet has received an extension and is in final design.**
- L24 Rainfall Road: design changed to two phases, **Ph-1 Road & Trail at final 100% design, and Ph-2 Conc Box Underpass at 30% design and moving to 60% design.** Construction funded for \$1.9 million from the LGTPF fund!
- L26 Deer Dancer Road: **at 100% design, working on ROW amendments and E.A.**
- L243 Acorn Road design: completed 100% design and PS&E review from the BIA. Construction pending funding.
- M154 Paguete Wash Bridge: **PER is complete – design phase will commence later this year.**
- M108 San Jose River Bridge-Seama: **PS&E, and ROW complete; EA, FONSI and NOI are in progress. Bridge is now at 100% design.**
- L248 Bluejay Road and L248 Blue Star Loop: **Design is in progress now at 30%. PER report is now in progress to include ROW review.**
- Pueblo's Safety Plan: **Plan is now complete – close out letter sent to BIA.**
- NMDOT I-40 Safety Project: The Pueblo met with NMDOT on March 3. **Design is at 100%; Construction by MSCI is ongoing on the east bound lanes from MM112 – 116..**
- The Pueblo has completed L26 Rainfall Road along with two trail projects.

Navajo Nation – Northern Agency

- **Navajo DOT is updating their Long Range Transportation Plan at this time.**
- **Local Govt. Road Fund projects will commence implementation soon for both Eastern and Northern Navajo.** Priscilla Lee – NDOT is working on extensions for FFY2019 projects. 2018 projects are complete at this time.
- **2021 LGRF projects include a) Two Grey Hills N-192 repairs – project is finalizing scope of work; b) preliminary engineering for Crown Point Chapter cemetery road.**
- **Larry has put in a PFF for improving with chip seal the Shiprock Farm Road, along with a Transportation Project Fund application to the state for the same project. This project has been approved by DOT District 5, and has been awarded funding from the DOT Transportation Project Fund at \$1,200,000.**
- **Two Grey Hills Chapter was awarded LGRF 2021 funding for N192 roadway and culvert improvements.**
- Navajo DOT continues development for their Long Range Transportation Plan for 2021.
- Two Grey Hills road is getting drainage improvements.
- Navajo DOT has appointed Marco Sells to fill an administrative position for Eastern Navajo finally bringing Larry Joe some relief! Marco will have his hands full, as he is also the Chinle, AZ Transportation Planner.
- Karen Bedonie has been re-assigned and a new Planning Director by the name of Leanne Roy is on board for NDOT.
- NDOT is working with Sandoval County on inventory to transfer County Roads to the Navajo Nation going forward.
- Shiprock High School Safety corridor project is earmarked for **2023 NMDOT STIP** for three lane road widening construction. Will remain on RTIP.
- **TseDaaKaan Chapter (Hogback) N5031/Hwy 64 Safety intersection improvement is earmarked for 2021 NMDOT STIP for construction.**
- **N36/Hwy 371 intersection improvement (Upperfruitland Chapter)-** This project was funded through NM State Capital Outlay. The project is led by San Juan County, NM. The Design layout of the intersection was completed by Wilson & Company. *. NMDOT and Navajo Nation finalizing the MOU, which will allow for the State beginning working on construction of the project. Project needs additional funding to be completed.*

- **Newcomb Chapter-** working on **N5007 Low Water Crossing** using the State, and Tribal match fund to complete this low water crossing project. Project Manager, Donald Jackson, worked on the design and it is determined it would need realignment of the road. Therefore, the realignment of the road was submitted to BIA for review and approval. Pending for final review and approval.
- **Beclabito Chapter-** was awarded of **NM Capital Outlay for Helipad for aircraft landing facility**. Land withdrawal is in the works with Project Manager assigned. Will need to complete the preliminary studies and design before the construction of the project.
- **US 64 Study Improvement Plan-** NMDOT officials recently met with local chapters (Beclabito, Gadiahii, Tsedaakaan, Shiprock) on the review and conditions of the highway and improvement plan process is for this 20 plus miles Hogback to AZ Stateline. **Project still Planning stage but improvements anticipated in the near future – executed by NMDOT District 5**. It will need to remain on the RTIP List for future road improvement, which includes road reconstruction, and bridges replacements.
- **Bahali Chapter 2019 LGTPF project is now complete.**
- **Priscilla Lee is working to complete 2019 LGTPF RSA's for Mexican Springs, Twin Lakes and Tohatchi Chapters in Ft. Defiance Agency by the June 30, 2022 deadline.**
- **LGRF projects for Gadiahi, Beclabito and Iyanbito Chapters are now complete.**
- Hwy 64 Shiprock Bridge Replacement- public hearing took place November 14, 2019 at Shiprock Chapter. Design plans has started on this project with NMDOT, it will remain the RTIP.
- San Juan-Hogback Bridge has completed the feasibility studies for a new bridge. Road alignment is still pending, and it would full preliminary studies and design of the project. San Juan Chapter is seeking additional funding for this project. Project will remain on the RTIP.
- **Shiprock Chapter- is seeking Road Safety Audit on Hwy 491, milepost 89-90.** Navajo DOT staff is working on this project using the Navajo Sihasin Fund for RSA. Updates- NMDOT contracted to complete the survey and assessment of the US Highway 491 North of Shiprock. Project will remain on the RTIP for future improvement planning, designing, and construction.
- Burnham Chapter- is seeking funding for RSA and N5/Hwy intersection improvement. Chapter is submitting a Letter of Intent through Local Government Road Fund on March 15, 2020. Project did not any funding but it will remain the RTIP for road studies, design and construction.
- Beclabito Chapter/Hwy 64 Improvement Plan- is continuing seeking funding for street lighting along Hwy 64 store, NHA Housing, Chapter house within the corridor.This project is added to NMDOT planning and design with when construction fund becomes available.. Project will remain on the RTIP for future funding.
- **Newcomb Chapter- is seeking funding for Street Lighting along Hwy 491 & N5001**, RSA was completed 2017 when the chapter contracted with a company that completed the studies. Project will remain on the RTIP.
- Sanostee Chapter – is seeking funding to construct new drainage structure at the intersection of Hwy 491 & N34. Recommending for Transportation Project Fund 2021 list. A studies was completed 2018 by Dibble Engineering. Project will remain on the RTIP List.
- Sanostee Chapter- is seeking funding for School Zone safety RSA and maintenance on route N34 on pavement road. Chapter is working on submitting to District 5 for studies and safety improvement at the school zone. Project will remain on the RTIP List.
- **A Road Safety Audit was conducted by Lee Engineering on US491 for Newcomb, Naschitti and Sheep Springs intersections in 2019 – NDOT will be considering recommendations for these intersections based on this RSA.**

Navajo Nation – Eastern Navajo

- **Marco Sells the new manager for Eastern Navajo indicated that a Virtual Navajo Nation Transportation Summit is in development to be announced sometime in the near future.**
- **Lary Joe indicated that Sandoval County will be transitioning many of rural their roads to Navajo DOT oversight and ownership**
- **Transportation Project Fund project application was approved by DOT for the west Tsayatoh Road in Eastern Navajo at \$2,450,000.**
- **Crownpoint Chapter has awarded LGRF 2021 funding for their cemetery access road.**
- Rock Springs Chapter- CR-9 road improvement. Will be added to RTIP for future road improvement

- Nahodishgish Chapter- N53 & 98 road improvement. Will be added to RTIP for road improvement.
- Manuelito Chapter- Sunset Valley road Chip Sealing. Will be added to RTIP
- Manuelito Chapter- Tse De Tah Spring road improvement Chip Sealing. Will be addit to RTIP
- Rock Springs Chapter- Chee Dodge Elementary School Access Improvement – Improving turning lanes and street lighting. Will be added to RTIP.
- Church Rock Chapter- NM Highway 118 Improve – Street lighting for safety corridor. Project will be completed with NM Capital Out funds.
- Crownpoint Chapter- street lighting project in progress to complete soon.
- Baahaali Chapter- transfer access road improvement- Project completed in 2020 with 2019 Transportation Project Fund award.
- Mexican Chapter- Road Safety Audit, project in progress on contracting out to complete the RSA studies. Will be added to RTIP for construction project.
- Twin Lakes Chapter- Road Safety Audit, project in progress on contracting out to complete the RSA studies. Will be added to RTIP for construction project.
- Tohatchi Chapter- Road Safety Audit, project progress on contracting out to complete the RSA studies. Will be added to RTIP for construction project.
- Iyanbito Chapter- Received Local Government Road Fund, it would need more funding to complete the road improvements. Will be added to RTIP for road improvement Chip Sealing.
- Iyanbito Chapter- I-40 -Project is seeking funding for drainage improvement and overpass studies, design and construction to provide safe entering and existing I-40. Will be added to RTIP.
- Mariano Lake Chapter- Red Willow road in progress to complete the road improvement.

Proposed New Roadway Lighting Projects have no Planning, Designing or Construction funding, but the respective Chapters will be seeking funds to begin Road Safety Assessments, Design, and Construction: All these projects will be added to RTIP for future funding of the projects.

- Smith Lake Chapter- Seeking RSA studies and street lighting at Hwy 371 & N49
- Crownpoint Chapter- Seeking RSA studies and street lighting at N9 & Hwy 371 intersection
- Becenti Chapter- Seeking RSA studies & Street lighting at Highway 371 & N9
- Coyote Canyon Chapter- Street lighting at Intersection of jpHighway 491 and N9, Milepost 15-15.5
- Whiterock Chapters- Seeking RSA & Street lighting at Highway 371 & store junction, chapter access roads
- Standing Rock Chapter- Seeking RSA & Street lighting at N9 & Chapter access road intersection.
- Little Water Chapter (Eastern)- Seeking RSA & Street lighting at Highway 371 and N7119
- Mexican Springs Chapter- Completing RSA, and seeking street lighting at Highway 491 & N30
- Naschitti Chapter- Completing RSA, and seeking street lighting at Highway 491 & Bus turnaround MP 32
- Tohatchi Chapter- Completing RSA and seeking street lighting at Highway 491 Milepost 22-24
- Twin Lakes Chapter- Completing RSA, and seeking street lighting at Highway 491 & Chapter access road/school access road, Milepost 13 – 13.5 and other lighting at Highway 491 & Giant store/Johnson road, Milepost 9.8 – 10.3

<p>New Mexico Department of Transportation Reports <i>(significant news only)</i></p>	<p>RTPO Liaison (Neala Krueger) Tribal Liaison (Ron Shutiva) District 5 (James Mexia, Stephanie Medina) District 6 (JoAnn Garcia; Bill Santiago)</p>
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Multimodal Planning & Programs Bureau – Neala Krueger

- **Request an administrative amendment to roll over \$1,946.82 in remaining funds from 2021 to the 2022 budget at the November meeting.**
- **The NWRTPO 4th Quarter Report is under review.**

- An RSA for the area around the I-40 / US491 intersection and west of this intersection in Gallup RSA is now complete. Numerous pedestrian injuries and fatalities have occurred in recent years. A virtual stakeholder meeting was held on January 28, 2021.
- The Recreational Trails Program (RTP), Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) and Congestion Mitigation / Air Quality (CMAQ) Call for projects was issued on May 3, 2021.
- The NMDOT 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan is now finalized and available on the NMDOT website.
- A new Pedestrian Safety Action Plan was adopted to commence implementation soon – find it on the NMDOT website.
- The New Mexico LTAP center provides technical assistance and trainings to support workforce development with the aim of helping local governments and municipalities across New Mexico meet their transportation needs. <https://ltap.unm.edu/>
- A new Functional Classification Guide update has been completed – now available on the DOT website.

NMDOT Tribal Liaison – Ron Shutiva

- **Ron reminded our members that 2019 LGTPF funded project completions are due June 30, 2022.**
- **Ron indicated that the 2021 Transportation Project Fund awarded a total of \$41 million to tribal entities statewide. Ron reminded members to pay attention to the “Buy America” guidelines.**
- **Ron indicated that only Pueblo of Acoma applied for FEMA Covid Recovery funds.**
- The Navajo Nation is having issues with development of an industrial park along the NM118 corridor between Rehoboth and Churchrock. The Navajo Economic Development Dept. is now working with NMDOT Dist. 6 toward an industrial park on NM118 between Rehoboth and Churchrock.
- **Ron is now on the LTAP Board.**
- **There’s a new Indian Highway Safety Grant out from the BIA.**
- Reminding members to keep on top of deadlines for ICIP, TIF, and LGRF.
- **Transportation Project Fund: better to phase then have a shortfall on funding for proposed projects.**
- A national broadband project is establishing a broadband corridor along I-40, and will involve tribal discussion with Pueblos of Laguna and Acoma and Navajo Nation.
- NMDOT needs an update from Pueblo of Laguna for progress on Rainfall Road from the Local Govt. Road Fund.
- NM118 drainage analysis project is finally in progress as the Navajo Council is working on agreements with the local governments in the region of the study between Churchrock and Iyanbito; **need coordination with NDOT.**
- Ron indicated that the Laguna I-40 improvement project is moving forward from Exit 112 to 117.
- Ron is concerned about improvements needed for the US64 Shiprock School Zone corridor – NDOT is non-responsive, and support and input is needed from NDOT before the state moves forward with safety improvements.
- I-40 Safety projects are coming to the Laguna Acoma area, including the exit 114 bridge.
- Ron reported on the NM118 drainage analysis that took place between the Iyanbito and Ft. Wingate I-40 intersections at previous meetings. Ron indicated he feels that NM118 drainage issues remain unresolved to this day (in spite of two studies!) and the Navajo Nation DOT remains non-responsive!
- NMDOT is working with area Chapters for improvements on the US491 corridor from Shiprock to Colorado border.

NMDOT District 5 – James Mexia, Stephanie Medina

- Stephanie reminded of the five certifications required before projects are considered construction ready.
- **Stephanie concurred with Bill Santiago of DOT Dist. 6 regarding the impending deadline (Dec. 31) for LGRF projects – if you can’t complete your project by that date, request an extension with a local govt. supporting resolution. Two Grey Hills Chapter may lose their LGRF project – please follow up with Larry Joe & Marco Sells!!**
- WHPacific is being contracted for a study on needed road and intersection improvements on US 64 – MP 0 – 20 (which includes the Shiprock School Zone). This project will be divided into two phases funded separately and referencing the District 5 HSIP plan for 2021 including a) primary / major Chapter or community intersections from Shiprock to the Arizona border and b) the Shiprock School Zone.
- The NM371 and N36 intersection near Northern Edge Casino is at 60% design; need ROW clearance / easement from NDOT.
- D-5 staff are managing project proposals for the 2021 Local Government Road Fund, and have received awards from the DOT General Office in Santa Fe for the next fiscal year.

NMDOT District 6 - JoAnn Garcia, Bill Santiago, Arif Kazmi

- **Local Govt. Road Fund** – as Stephanie from District 5 mentioned, the 5 certifications are also required before LGRF projects are considered construction ready.
- **Bill Santiago: LGRF current cycle ends December 31, 2021** – if members don't anticipate being able to complete their projects by that date – **request an extension by the end of October**, along with a **local govt. supporting resolution for the extension!**
- **Mike Neely is on board with NMDOT District 6 to assist the RTPO's participating in the District 6 region.**
- **Lisa Vega is now the Acting Director for DOT District 6, as Larry Maynard has retired.**
- For Local Government Road Fund projects – the District needs certifications for all projects – many RTPO members are not following LGRF guidance for project development and are trying to close out projects without having reported progress to the DOT or following what the program requires – this could jeopardize funding, and DOT District 6 urges follow up with their staff. Have contractors apply to be on the State list as pre-qualified contractors. Using a non-state-qualified contractor could also jeopardize project funding!

NEW BUSINESS/OPEN FLOOR: MEMBERS & GUESTS (5-minute limit) - None

ANNOUNCEMENTS & NEXT MEETING: No announcements – **next meeting October 13, 2021** – virtual meeting via Microsoft Teams

ADJOURNMENT (11:50 am) Edward Salazar – Cibola County motioned; and Denise Baca – Village of Milan seconded for adjournment Motion carried by acclamation.

MEETING ACTIONS:

Staff:

- **Orientations:** RTPO Orientations for Local Government Policy Board meetings were completed in August thru September, 2021.
- **Website:** update all important documents page and update Meeting schedule on Meetings page - **complete**
- **Program Guides:** post to website and circulate - **complete**
- **Review Amendments** (especially Gallup for MAP/Coal Avenue Commons - June 30)
- **Transportation Project Fund Internal Deadlines:** Implementation – **complete** – **all proposed projects have been approved and are now authorized to move forward.**

MEMBERS:

- **Orientations:** complete
- **2019 LGTPF awarded projects:** due for completion by June 30, 2022
- **Annual RTPO Member Survey:** sent to members 9/14/21; Survey Monkey Link sent to members 9/29/21 – asking members to complete these for review at our November or December meeting.
- **Statewide Transportation Plan 2045 update** – members encouraged to review

NMDOT:

- Remind Staff and RTPO Members of impending deadlines for various projects and deliverables