

**NWRTPO | Northwest Regional Transportation Planning Organization**

## Joint Policy &amp; Technical Committee

## NWRTPO Meeting Minutes

Wednesday November 10, 2021

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

Virtual meeting executed via Microsoft Teams

Due to COVID-19 Pandemic

**ATTENDANCE:**

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

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

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

**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:
	8	5	1	1		15

## ROUTINE ITEMS:

Item #	Item
I.	<b>Call to Order and Introductions.</b> The meeting was called to order at 10:15 am, Bob Kuipers welcomed those in attendance, and Dave Deutsawe proceeded with introductions and approval of agenda and minutes. The virtual meeting was conducted via Microsoft Teams, due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
II.	<b>Agenda.</b> RTPO Program Manager provided an overview of the day's agenda topics and RTPO Chair called for a motion:  <b>ACTION:</b> Don Jaramillo – Grants - motioned; Alicia Santiago – Gallup - seconded adoption of the agenda. All in favor – motion carried.
III.	<b>Minutes (October 13, 2021).</b> Vice-Chair provided time for review of minutes and there were no revisions requested,  <b>ACTION:</b> Elroy Keetso – Pueblo of Laguna motioned; Judy Horacek – Cibola County seconded adoption of the minutes. All in favor – motion carried.

**Discussion:** No discussion

## ACTION ITEMS:

Item #	Item	Presenter
IV.	<b>Annual Performance &amp; Expenditure Report</b>	Robert Kuipers – RTPO Staff
<b>BACKGROUND</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Why?</b> Staff report quarterly to NMDOT on RTPO accomplishments; also at the end of each fiscal year staff provide an annual report on significant achievements.</li> <li><b>Purpose.</b> This demonstrates the effectiveness of the RTPO in developing and maintaining transportation infrastructure and services through collaborative planning and development on the part of participating member municipal, tribal, and county government representatives. This also documents the responsible and effective management of federal transportation funding thru regional collaboration for transportation infrastructure and services development and maintenance across participating jurisdictions.</li> <li><b>Discussion/Finalization.</b> Members will vote to approve and authorize the APER report.</li> </ul>		
<b>CURRENT WORK</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Members to review and vote to approve and authorize the APER Report.</li> </ul>		
<b>ANTICIPATED WORK</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>RTPO members will continue monthly collaboration for the development and maintenance of transportation infrastructure and services serving our multi-jurisdictional region.</li> </ul>		
<b>ATTACHMENTS</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Annual NWRTPO APER report.</li> </ul>		
<b>BUDGET IMPACT</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>None</li> </ul>		
<b>ACTION ITEM</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Members will vote to approve and authorize the Annual Performance &amp; Expenditure Report.</li> </ul>		

**IV. APER Discussion:** Robert Kuipers covered the contents of the APER report, which are also included in the meeting package. The significant highlight was the Transportation Project Fund with \$160 million available statewide. Our region – between the NWRTPO and the FMPO received a total amount of funding (state and local match) of \$22,415,163.00 on behalf of 18 projects for 4 FMPO governments and 10 NWRTPO governments.

**Alicia Santiago - Gallup** motioned to approve, **Elroy Keetso - Laguna** seconded, and all participating RTPO members were in favor.

**DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

Item #	Item	Presenter
V.	Roadway Project Prioritization	Robert Kuipers – RTPO Staff
<b>BACKGROUND</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Why?</b> Typically the NWRTPO prioritizes projects in the Roadway, Bridge, TAP, RTP and CMAQ sections of the RTIPR. This year we don't have too many competing projects in any section but the Roadway section; therefore we're asking our members to submit their #1 priority Roadway project, which will compete via a standardized questionnaire for prioritization; all other Roadway project submissions will be listed below without priority.</li><li>• <b>Purpose.</b> To assure competitive opportunity for funding for each of our member government's top priority roadway project.</li><li>• <b>Discussion/Finalization.</b> Members to submit their top priority project in advance of our November 10 meeting.</li></ul>		
<b>CURRENT WORK</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Members to complete questionnaire for prioritization of top priority roadway projects.</li></ul>		
<b>ANTICIPATED WORK</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Staff to prioritize, followed by member discussion at RTPO meeting for final prioritization.</li></ul>		
<b>ATTACHMENTS</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Roadway Project Prioritization Questionnaire</li><li>• 2022 RTIPR Guide</li></ul>		
<b>BUDGET IMPACT</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• None</li></ul>		
<b>ACTION ITEM</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• N/A</li></ul>		

**Discussion:**

All members submitted their top priority roadway project questionnaire on time, and staff have posted them into the RTIPR – unprioritized at this time. This includes projects from nine of our member governments including Cibola County, McKinley County, City of Gallup, City of Grants, Village of Milan, Northern Navajo, Eastern Navajo, Ramah Navajo, and Pueblo of Acoma. Pueblo of Laguna, Pueblo of Zuni, and San Juan County did not submit Roadway projects for this RTIPR update.

Staff is considering a prioritization questionnaire for RTPO members, and in the mean time based on questionnaire submissions will un-officially prioritize these projects in the RTIPR for member review and discussion at our December RTPO meeting. Thereafter final prioritization will likely take place at our January 2022 meeting based member priority submissions and discussion at our December and January meetings.

This 9 month RTIPR update will only entail prioritizing roadway projects, as all other sections of the RTIPR have less project submissions and will not need to compete for funding prioritization – as agreed to by our members at our November meeting.

Item #	Item	Presenter
VI.	<b>Annual Member Survey Report</b>	Robert Kuipers – RTPO Staff
<b>BACKGROUND</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Why?</b> On an annual basis the NWRTPO conducts a survey to gauge the quality of program services and consider new priorities going forward</li> <li>• <b>Purpose.</b> Staff seek to refine and improve RTPO management for local government transportation services and infrastructure development along with supporting cross-jurisdictional collaboration in the NWRTPO three county / four tribe region</li> <li>• <b>Discussion/Finalization.</b> Members have been provided the survey via hard copy and Survey Monkey</li> </ul>		
<b>CURRENT WORK</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide survey options so members can complete and submit</li> </ul>		
<b>ANTICIPATED WORK</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Staff will summarize survey results and report back to members and DOT staff in October or November</li> </ul>		
<b>ATTACHMENTS</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• FFY2021 Member Survey Form</li> </ul>		
<b>BUDGET IMPACT</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• None.</li> </ul>		
<b>ACTION ITEM</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• N/A. Based on member feedback, staff will consider and develop recommendations for FFY2022</li> </ul>		

**Discussion:**

Thus far only 5 RTPO members have responded and submitted their FFY2021 survey on Survey Monkey – which is not really enough for an adequate discussion at this meeting. Staff advised members that they can be provided the login information to Survey Monkey if they wish to use this option, as the original provided link is outdated and no longer works – or they can simply execute the survey document that staff emailed out to all our members and email it in so staff can be aware of which govt. member it is coming from. Survey submission from each of our members will remain confidential.

Staff provided a summary of Survey Monkey responses from the five that were submitted via Survey Monkey in the meeting package. Survey Monkey does not disclose from which member govt. the survey came from, which compliments our efforts to allow our members responses to remain confidential.

**Staff are requesting NWRTPO members who have not yet completed the annual member survey to please get this done via Survey Monkey, or just completing the copy submitted from staff, with assurances of complete confidentiality.**

Item #	Topic	Presenter
VII.	Reports, Updates & Announcements	Robert Kuipers - NWRTPO
<b>BACKGROUND</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Why?</b> Update RTPO members on news, training, funding, and other items of special interest</li> <li>• <b>Purpose.</b> Keep RTPO members up to date on critical information from NWRTPO and NMDOT sources</li> </ul>		
<b>Informational Items</b>		
<b>Regional News &amp; Updates</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regional Work Program Status Reports</li> <li>• RTPO Monthly Report</li> <li>• <b>Staff to forward annual 5310 and 5311 Public Transportation Provider funding applications to RTPO members for review in advance of evaluative scoring at our December RTPO Virtual meeting.</b></li> <li>• Member Reports</li> </ul>		
<b>Member Special Reports:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• None this meeting</li> </ul>		
<b>NMDOT Reports:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• G to G Liaison: Neala Krueger</li> <li>• Tribal Liaison: Ron Shutiva</li> <li>• District 6: JoAnn Garcia &amp; staff; District 5: James Mexia, Stephanie Medina</li> </ul>		
<b>News, Training &amp; Funding Opportunities:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• FHWA Planning, Environment &amp; Realty Reports: none</li> <li>• <u>NMDOT Govt. to Govt. Update</u>: 10/15/21, 10/28/21</li> <li>• AASHTO Publications: none</li> <li>• <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 <a href="http://ltap.unm.edu">ltap.unm.edu</a> – <b>Online courses notice</b> forwarded to members as LTAP emails come in.</li> <li>• <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.</li> <li>• <u>Tos No Mas Litter Event</u>: 10/12/21</li> <li>• <u>FHWA Center for Local Aid Newsletter</u>: 10/12/21</li> <li>• <u>Targeted overlay Pavement Solutions Report</u>: 10/12/21</li> <li>• <u>Build Back Better Grant Opportunities</u>: 10/15/21</li> <li>• <u>RTIPR Process to Prioritize Roadway Projects</u>: 10/15/21</li> <li>• <u>NMDOT Mapping Tool</u>: 10/15/21</li> <li>• <u>Center for Tribal Transportation Training News</u>: 10/15/21</li> <li>• <u>Arizona DOT Tribal Road Safety Audit Training</u>: 10/20/21</li> <li>• <u>National Highway Traffic Safety Administration Tribal Traffic Safety Webinar</u>: 10/22/21</li> <li>• <u>Tribal Traffic Safety Webinar</u>: 11/1/21</li> </ul>		

**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:**

Staff provided the October monthly report – of significance is our ongoing RTIPR update, the outstanding award to our region for the NMDOT Transportation Project Fund, ongoing recreational trails development in our region, national designation for our Trail of the Ancients scenic byway, our Annual APER report, and the new NMDOT mapping tool, which provides significant information for transportation development. Staff also provided the October staff hours report, and September expenditure report.

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.
- **Gaylord Siow is now the new Project Manager for the Pueblo of Acoma.**
- **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.
- **Acoma Business Park is commencing design. The Pueblo is also developing parking lots for some of their outdoor parks.**
- **SR124 is in design – construction comes next.**
- 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 has been**

**funded for phase 2 from 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 60% 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. 2<sup>nd</sup> phase for East Nizhoni will be the College Drive and Nizhoni intersection.**
- **Local Govt. Road Fund funded projects have completed 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. The City has been awarded and construction will begin in the Spring of 2022.**

#### 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.
- **The County is building an emergency bypass at this time for the CR-5 Moquino bridge.**
- 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 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> street bridge out to bid for construction to commence in July – delay due to COVID-19 pandemic.
- Washington bridge replacement over 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 RTPPO staff that the Pueblo has six official villages – not seven – staff will execute this correction going forward.
- Gaylord Siow and Sharon Hausam have left the Pueblo, so Elroy Keetso is now the only NWRTPPO representative for the Pueblo.
- **The Pueblo is consulting with the MRRTPO 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 RTPPO 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. **NM 124 design is complete, anticipating construction in Spring of 2022.**
- 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 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 in ROW review. The Concrete Box Underpass is now eliminated, and DOT Dist. 6 proposes to build an I-40 bridge over L24 road.** 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 Paguate 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 on-going 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, Gadihii, 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.**
- **LGTF projects for Gadihii, 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
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- **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 added 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 RTIPR 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 Intersections of Highway 491 and N9, Milepost 15-15.5
- Whiterock Chapter- 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

<b>New Mexico Department of Transportation Reports (significant news only)</b>	RTPO Liaison (Neala Krueger) Tribal Liaison (Ron Shutiva) District 5 (James Mexia, Stephanie Medina) District 6 (JoAnn Garcia; Bill Santiago)
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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 December meeting. Double check with Neala – by my records: \$2,212.30 (fed - \$1,769.84 / match - \$442.46)**
- **The NWRTPO 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter Report is under review.**
- **Jessica Griffin is now the Planning Division Director; Joseph Moriority is the new Freight & Tech. Planning Supervisor, JoAnn Garcia is the new Multi-modal TAP/RTP Coordinator.**
- 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 Pueblo of Acoma may need to phase the NM124 project around required certifications.**
- **Ron asked how the Navajo RSA’s are coming along with the 2018 LGTPF deadline of June 30, 2022 coming up – for Twin Lakes, Mexican Springs, and Tohatchi Chapters.**
- **Ron is collaborating with UNM LTAP for funding opportunities – good training is forthcoming.**
- The Navajo Nation is having issues with development of and 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. Keep District 6 informed on progress – the time is now critical to request an extension amendment.**
- **Keep DOT District 6 staff informed on progress for the Transportation Project Fund. 5 certifications takes time – try to get these executed during this Winter season so you are construction ready in the Spring!!**
- **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 – include Mr. Neely on all communication.**
- **Lisa Vega is now the 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 (11:40 am)** Elroy Keetso – Pueblo of Laguna – motioned; and Judy Horacek – City of Grants 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**
- **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