

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

Wednesday April 13, 2022
 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	Gaylord Siow , Dennis Felipe Jr.
Pueblo of Laguna	Elroy Keetso
Pueblo of Zuni	Royce Gchachu , Roxanne Hughte
Navajo Nation	Edwin Begay , Margie Begay
Ramah Navajo	Dorothy Claw – RTPO Vice Chair , Tom Martine
City of Grants	Don Jaramillo – RTPO Chairman
City of Gallup	Clyde Strain, Alicia Santiago
Village of Milan	Linda Cooke, Denise Baca, Felix Gonzales
Cibola County	Edward Salazar , Judy Horacek
McKinley County	Rodney Skersick
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	James Mexia
District 6	Bill Santiago, Michael Neely , Clayton Garner
Tribal Liaison	Ron Shutiva
DOT Central Regional Design Office	James Sanchez, Juan Archuletta
Other NMDOT Staff / Guests	

Northwest Regional Transportation Planning Organization	
Northwest NM Council of Governments	Robert Kuipers, Brandon Howe

Tally Sheet – Attendance & Quorum

Total Full Attendance:	Member Entities:	NMDOT	RTPO	Guests (Transit)	Full Attendance Norm:	
	12	Normally 4-5: DOT Liaison, Tribal Liaison, District 5 & 6 Representatives		varies	17 - 20	
Attendance – this meeting:	Member Attendance:	NMDOT Attendance:	Staff:	Guests:	Attendance % this meeting:	TOTAL:
	9	4	1		80%	14

ROUTINE ITEMS:

Item #	Item
I.	Call to Order and Introductions. The meeting was called to order at 10:10 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 Chair Don Jaramillo called for a motion: ACTION: Edwin Begay – Navajo motioned; Dorothy Claw – Ramah seconded adoption of the agenda. All in favor – motion carried.
III.	Minutes (February 9, 2022). RTPO Chairman provided time for review of minutes and there were no revisions requested, ACTION: Gaylord Siow , Acoma motioned; Edwin Begay , Navajo seconded adoption of the minutes. All in favor – motion carried.

ACTION ITEMS: None this meeting

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Item #	Item	Presenter
IV.	Present: Infrastructure Investment & Jobs Act	Robert Kuipers – RTPO Staff
BACKGROUND		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why? Major Funding opportunities are right around the corner from the federal IIA grant and other sources – members need to pursue these under very limited time constraints • Purpose. Inform and prepare our members to take advantage of this funding • Discussion/Finalization. DOT presentation at our April 13 meeting 		
CURRENT WORK		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members to be aware of and pursue these funding opportunities 		
ANTICIPATED WORK		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding applications submitted under short time constraints 		
ATTACHMENTS		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NMDOT presentation and other relevant documentation 		
BUDGET IMPACT		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None on RTPO but major funding opportunities for our region’s priority projects 		
ACTION ITEM		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N/A 		

Discussion:

- Staff covered the wide variety of funding opportunities – nationally at billions and billions of dollars; all of which have a variety of application timeline constraints, which in many cases staff are not yet privy to.
- Staff also covered the MEGA, INFRA and Rural Program opportunities: MEGA with \$1 billion available this year with a required 20% match. INFRA has \$1.55 billion available this year with 25% available to rural areas, 15% available to smaller projects and recommending \$5 million minimum for small projects and \$25 million minimum for large projects. Rural Program has \$1.5 billion available for FFY22 – 26, with minimum awards at \$25 million with a 20% required match.

- MEGA, INFRA, and Rural Applications are due May 23, 2022
- Applicants can register at Grants.gov as follows:
 - Obtain a Unique Entity Identifier (UEI) number
 - Register with the System for Award Management (SAM) at www.SAM.gov
 - Create a Grants.gov username and password; and
 - The E-Business Point of Contact at your organization must respond to the registration email from Grants.gov and login at Grants.gov to authorize you as an Authorized Organization Representative (AOR). Please note that there can be more than one AOR for an organization.

Item #	Item	Presenter
V.	Review & Discuss: Annual Meeting Schedule	Robert Kuipers – RTPO Staff
BACKGROUND		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why? Every year the NWRTPO updates its annual meeting schedule – May thru April of next year • Purpose. To plan and schedule ongoing RTPO meeting hosting and locations for May, 2022 thru April, 2023 • Discussion/Finalization. Members discussed and agreed to another annual schedule of RTPO meetings the second Wednesday of each month from May, 2022 thru April, 2023 at our March 9 meeting. 		
CURRENT WORK		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Based on discussion at our March meeting, staff will present the final schedule for hosting meetings May, 2022 – April, 2023 		
ANTICIPATED WORK		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Based on today’s final schedule presentation, staff will produce and distribute the next annual meeting schedule from May, 2022 thru April, 2023 to RTPO members and area newspapers 		
ATTACHMENTS		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FFY2022 – 2023 meeting schedule 		
BUDGET IMPACT		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None 		
ACTION ITEM		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N/A 		

Discussion:

- Not much discussion on this item, as members are already aware and have concurred with continuing our same annual schedule of meeting locations even though our meetings will for some time remain virtual due to the COVID-19 Pandemic.
- Navajo Nation was not ready to provide a meeting location as of yet, so the calendar will indicate that the COG will host the October 12 meeting.
- Due to COVID 19 Tribal meeting restrictions, COG staff reorganized our annual meeting schedule, putting most of the Tribal meetings during the Winter season, when we don’t expect many visitors at our meetings; even though we anticipate with ongoing COVID-19 mutations, our meetings may remain virtual for an ongoing considerable time period. While meeting locations will remain the same, the schedule has traded winter locations with our other member governments, in order to place our tribal meetings during that season, so if COVID slows down – we can still honor tribal visitor restrictions. Staff will share our new meeting schedule at our May RTPO meeting.

Item #	Item	Presenter
VI.	Review & Discuss: 2023 Transportation Project Fund Application Progress (due May 31)	Robert Kuipers – RTPO Staff
BACKGROUND		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why? The NWRTPO has a strong history of leading the state with TPF funding for our region’s projects; we need to maintain this reputation by completing projects within specified timelines and as described in our proposals. • Purpose. Gage progress with members completing their FFY2023 TPF complete application packages • Discussion/Finalization. Members will discuss progress and any assistance needed. 		
CURRENT WORK		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue building 2023 TPF application packages per guidance and timelines. 		
ANTICIPATED WORK		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complete 2023 TPF application package by or before the May 31 deadline. 		
ATTACHMENTS		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2023 TPF guidance 		
BUDGET IMPACT		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None (<i>but strong funding opportunity for our region’s projects</i>) 		
ACTION ITEM		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N/A 		

Discussion:

- Staff received seven (7) TPF PFF’s from RTPO members, including Grants, Acoma, McKinley, Gallup, Cibola, Milan and Ramah. Now these **members have until May 24 to get their complete application packages in to COG RTPO staff** – per NMDOT recommendations, so COG staff can then submit these to the FTP website, well in advance of the May 31 deadline. Bearing in mind that these are for FFY2023 funding, NMDOT wants complete applications submitted to the FTP website by May 31, 2022.
- Staff have provided guidance to RTPO members on all required documents to complete application packages due to the NMDOT FTP Website by May 31, 2022.

Item #	Item	Presenter
VII.	Present: Functional Classification Guidance	Robert Kuipers – RTPO Staff
BACKGROUND		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why? Mckinley County Road Dept. has purchased traffic count equipment which can be used to upgrade functional classification for our regional corridors • Purpose. To provide guidance to RTPO members interested in pursuing functional classification upgrades – which increases competitiveness for funding • Discussion/Finalization. Brief presentation in meeting, with agenda package documentation providing much more extensive guidance for traffic counts 		
CURRENT WORK		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Present information on performing traffic counts acceptable to NMDOT and provide related guidance materials in the meeting package 		
ANTICIPATED WORK		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assist RTPO members going forward with traffic counts in collaboration with NMDOT Districts 5 and 6 		
ATTACHMENTS		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Various functional classification and traffic count guidance 		
BUDGET IMPACT		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None 		
ACTION ITEM		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N/A 		

Discussion:

- Staff provided some general, condensed guidance for functional classification upgrade requests, as the process is complicated and requires the involvement of the regional DOT Districts – in our case DOT Districts 5 and 6 for proper traffic counts.
- Since federal funding requires a corridor to be at least a major collector, proper traffic counts are needed in order to change a corridor from a local road or minor collector to a major collector or higher. DOT District staff involvement in these efforts is required to assure that the traffic counts are properly executed.
- Now the McKinley County has purchased traffic counting equipment, our three county multi governments region has the opportunity now to execute traffic counts for the purpose of functional classification upgrades.

Item #	Topic	Presenter
VIII.	Reports, Updates & Announcements	Robert Kuipers – NWRTPO RTPO Members, NMDOT Staff
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 Reports • County Bridge Funding opportunities – County Bridge Lists • 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 		
News, Training & Funding Opportunities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>FHWA Planning, Environment & Realty Reports</u>: none for the past month • <u>NMDOT Govt. to Govt. Update</u>: • <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>Local Govt. Road Fund Guidance</u>: 1/10/22 – initial proposals due 3/15/22; additional documents run thru October, 2022. • <u>National Transportation in Indian Country Conference</u>: Aug. 22-26, 2022 – Louisville, Kentucky (2/11/22) • <u>UNM LTAP Training Opportunities</u>: 2/23/22, 3/7/22 • <u>Bipartisan Infrastructure Law Funding</u>: INFRA, RAISE grants and Bridge Formula Funding 3/10/22 • <u>More Grant & Training Opportunities</u>: NM 2022 Outdoor Rec. Trails Grant, 2022 American Trails Funding, RAISE Grant, UNM LTAP Training opportunities – 3/15, 3/17, 4/11 • <u>Infrastructure & Jobs Act Funding</u>: 3/24/22 		

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.

- Robert Kuipers provided his March monthly report including RTIPR update, Transportation Project Fund, Bipartisan Infrastructure Investment & Jobs Act funding and other news, training and funding opportunities.
- Mr. Kuipers also provided the monthly staff hours and expenditure reports

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

Pueblo of Acoma

- **The Mesa Hill Bridge project remains unfunded and ongoing, but is fully designed and construction ready with support from NMDOT. The issue is just obtaining significant funding (around \$30 million) from USDOT with every round of major funding they provide. The RAISE grant may be the next opportunity. The Pueblo is updating the NEPA and again getting permission from land owners.**
- **Pueblo of Acoma has hired a Civil Engineer – Dennis Felipe Jr. who will be the alternate rep. to the NWRTPO.**
- **The Pueblo’s TTIP (Tribal Transportation Improvement Program) is in process with Federal Highway Admin.**
- **The Pueblo has received \$1.5 million from Senator Heinrich for the Acoma Business Park.**
- CMGC2 – 1: Construction of new office for Transportation and other Departments is now complete.
- CMGC2-2 SP130 Veterans Blvd. and Arrowhead Road – projects are now 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.
- 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.**
- **NM124 Extension to NM117 has been fully funded thru the Transportation Project Fund which is our current #1 priority. The Pueblo will collaborate with NMDOT Dist. 6 and has submitted an agreement and resolution for approval. . The Pueblo is now waiting on an agreement to proceed from NMDOT Secretary Sandoval. It appears that unlike DOT Dist. 6 advice, the Pueblo will first have to execute design and cannot go directly to construction.**
- **Haaku Road – SP38 is a new priority for the Pueblo for design and reconstruction to improve the corridor to the Sky City Pueblo and Pueblo Museum and Visitor Center – hope to undertake design in 2022. The Pueblo has submitted a TPF request for \$2,900,000 for design of road improvements for the FFY2023 round of this funding. The Pueblo has submitted a grant application to the Federal RAISE grant opportunity.**
- **The Pueblo is working with DOT Dist. 6 to address drainage issues for the San Lorenzo Road**
- 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. A supporting resolution is ready for submission to FHWA.**
- **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.**
- 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 will soon be working on drainage improvements along the NM53 corridor mp 15.5 to 19.5.**
- 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 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 received another award plaque for their service during the COVID pandemic.**
- 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. CR19 – 18.6 miles is at 60%, with gravel and chip seal scheduled for next summer.**
- Deer Springs Road for base course is now complete for Mexican Springs Chapter.
- Woodview Road 1.5 miles of Chipseal in Prewitt is now complete. Hillcrest and Bowman Roads are also complete.
- **The County's Local Government Road Fund projects for FFY2021 are now complete; working on certifications for 2022 projects at this time.**
- County Road #1 chipseal is now complete.
- The County had their ribbon cutting ceremony for Manuelito Canyon bridge replacement on September 10, 2021 – 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 Gameraco 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 and CR-6 are now complete.
- **Cousins Road and CR-1 will move into phase 2 repairs. Superman Canyon Road and Old Church Rock Mine Bridge are next projects on the list. Church Rock Mine Bridge is getting started at this time.**
- **Funded FFY2022 projects will commence this summer**
- 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. 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. City is now scheduling pre-construction meeting.**
- **East Nizhoni and West Aztec improvements are currently in design phase – East Nizhoni design at 75%; received news from NMDOT Dist. 6 that the City was awarded MAP funding for East Nizhoni Ave - \$900,000 and out to bid soon. Phase 2 Nizhoni Blvd. and College Drive intersection out to BID soon.**
- **West 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. **Property owner has submitted proposal to City for utility easement – under review at this time. West Aztec is at 60% design.**
- **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. Work to begin in May.**
- 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 began on April 11, 2022.**

Milan

No report yet for this meeting – as the Village has a new manager.

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.
- **Ramah Navajo is updating their Long Range Transportation Plan at this time, and in the process of prioritizing projects. Public meetings are forthcoming. Ramah is also working on Administrative Policies and Procedures.**
- **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.**
- **Ramah is seeking to do RSA’s for ten (10) intersections for NM53 and other tribal roads.**
- 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.**
- **Cibola County has submitted an RFP due March 23 for a new public safety building, and will conduct a pre-proposal meeting; six (6) construction firms have responded thus far.**
- 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 determined the award at their January 14 meeting. **CR18-B has commenced ROW work; drainage work is ongoing and construction will commence soon; CR-1 has issued an RFP to Engineering Firms.**
- 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 is now complete.** Final PS&E was scheduled for this August and project letting is scheduled for September. Total project stands at \$6.2 million. **Striping is now complete; anticipated completion around mid February, 2022.**
- 2nd street bridge out to bid for construction to commence in July – **2nd Street Channel project is now complete for Jefferson Ave. to the Rio San Jose.**
- 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. **Funding was awarded at \$750,000 for the Anderman to Sage St. portion from NM CDBG funds.**
- Lobo Canyon and Roosevelt intersection improvements are underway and ongoing. **Roosevelt Bridge is at 60% design.**

Pueblo of Laguna

- **Gaylord Siow has moved from Laguna to Acoma, so Elroy Keetso is now the primary representative for Laguna.**
- **The Pueblo remains under COVID restrictions, and is looking for a transportation specialist – no other major news now.**
- **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.
- **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. **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 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 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 MSCl 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, Gadiahi, 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

- **Edwin Begay the new manager for Eastern Navajo indicated that NDOT is now updating Chapter routes and will follow up with Chapters for resolutions and inventory training.**
- **NDOT is also gearing up for school bus route improvements and asking route maps from the various Navajo Nation schools.**
- **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 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

New Mexico Department of Transportation Reports <i>(significant news only)</i>	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

- The NMDOT website has been updated, and a NMDOT Freight Plan update is underway.
- **TAP, RTP and CMAQ award letters are being delayed, anticipate the notice of award to be forthcoming soon.**
- 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.
- Rosa Kozub is now the Multimodal Planning & Programs Bureau Chief; Jessica Griffin is the Planning Division Chief; Joseph Moriority is the new Freight & Tech. Planning Supervisor, JoAnn Garcia is the new Multi-modal TAP/RTP Coordinator.

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. Our region did well for this round of TPF funds.
- 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 shared that a State Tribal Leaders Summit is coming June 1-2 at Sandia Casino.**
- **MRMPO – Planner Training will take place tomorrow at 1pm!**
- **Ron is collaborating with UNM LTAP for funding opportunities – good training is forthcoming.**
- **Ron had discussion with Arlando Teller (AZ State Rep.) regarding the \$825 million RAISE grant – application deadline, end of April, 2022.**
- **Ron is now on the LTAP Board.**
- **There’s a new Indian Highway Safety Grant out from the BIA.**
- **Ron hopes to commence statewide tribal roundtables in the near future. More news forthcoming.**
- 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.
- **Ron is encouraging tribal members to pursue bridge funding.**
- **Ron reminds tribal members to pursue support and related letters of support from state and national legislators.**
- 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 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 District 5 – James Mexia

- 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 – Bill Santiago, Michael Neely

- 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 as previously funded LGRF cycle is in close out!**
- **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!! TPF projects from 2019 are due for completion by June 30, 2022 – time to request an extension if this does not look possible!!! Need Wilson & Co. final report in the near future!!**
- **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. Mike reminded that for TPF funds, projects must have design before they can move to construction**
- **Mr. Clayton Garner will fill JoAnn Garcia's former position at the District. Reminding members to remind others that traffic safety is important in construction areas.**
- **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 May 11, 2022 – virtual meeting via Microsoft Teams

ADJOURNMENT (11:55 am) Edwin Begay, NDOT – motioned; and Dorothy Claw - Ramah 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. A new TPF Call for Projects has been issued for FFY2023.**

MEMBERS:

- **Members are encouraged to review your respective sections in these minutes and report to RTPO staff on which portions / bullet sentences can be eliminated as no longer pertinent or completed, as these sections make the minutes incredibly lengthy!!**
- **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. **Only 7 members responded!**
- **Statewide Transportation Plan 2045 update** – members encouraged to review

NMDOT: Remind Staff and RTPO Members of impending deadlines for various projects and deliverables.