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

Wednesday January 8, 2020
10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Cibola Convention Center
515 High Street
Grants, N.M.

ATTENDANCE:

Local & Tribal Governments:

Pueblo of Acoma	Vice Chair – Dave Deutsawe; Raymond Concho
Pueblo of Laguna	Brandon Herrera
Pueblo of Zuni	Royce Gchachu ; Roxann Hughte
Navajo Nation	Eastern Navajo: Larry Joe Northern Navajo: Larry Joe
Ramah Navajo	Shane Lewis, Trina Martine - absent
Farmington MPO	Vacant at this time
City of Grants	Don Jaramillo
City of Gallup	Stan Henderson – absent, Alicia Santiago
Village of Milan	Jack Moleres
Cibola County	Gary Porter
McKinley County	Chair – Jeff Irving - absent
San Juan County	Scott Martin, Nick Porell - absent

Technical Agencies:

Govt. to Govt. Liaison: **Neala Krueger**
DOT District 5: absent
DOT District 6: **JoAnn Garcia, Bill Santiago**
DOT Tribal Liaison: **Ron Shutiva**
DOT – Admin:

NWRTPO Administration:

Northwest Regional Planning Organization: **Robert Kuipers**

Guests:

- Rodney Skersic, Donna Fambrough – McKinley Roads; Christine Sam, Richard Bowman – Mex. Springs Chapter; Roselyn John – Chichiltah Chapter, Gloria Eskeet de Cruz – Baahaali Chapter;
- Public Transportation Reps.: Deborah Bach, Vijay Ummadi – NMDOT Transit & Rail, Tommy Mims – Gallup Express, Melissa Chavez – 66 Express-Milan, Marcus Tulley, Florinda Lynch – Navajo Transit, Briana Smith – Capacity Builders, Todd Naktewa – Zuni Ashiwi Transit, Ramona Dillard, Yvette Mooney – Laguna Shaarskra Transit, Walter Jones, Yvette Sandoval – CCRC

5 Members, 4 alternate members, 4 NMDOT, 1 RTPO Staff,
TOTAL ATTENDANCE: 18 guests – TOTAL: 32

- I. **Call to Order and Introductions:**.....Dave Deutsawe – RTPO Vice-Chair
 - Mr. Deutsawe called the meeting to order at 10:15 am, welcomed those in attendance, and proceeded with introductions and approval of agenda and minutes. The meeting was hosted by Cibola County, with special thanks for coffee, snacks and lunch provided.
- II. **Review & Approval of Agenda:**.....Dave Deutsawe – RTPO Vice-Chair
 - Motion to Approve: Don Jaramillo - Grants; 2nd Alicia Santiago - Gallup; all in favor none opposed
- III. **Approval and Review of Minutes for 12/11/19 meeting:**.....Dave Deutsawe – RTPO Vice-Chair
 - Motion to Approve: Gary Porter - Cibola; 2nd Don Jaramillo - Grants, all in favor, none opposed.

ACTION ITEMS:

IV) Annual Evaluative Ranking of Public Transportation Funding Applications.....Robert Kuipers

BACKGROUND
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why? The NMDOT Transit & Rail Division has established an annual evaluation process for 5310 (limited mobility) and 5311 (public transit) public transportation applications, with standardized evaluation templates, for RTPO members to evaluate and rank. • Purpose. The statewide RTPO’s present the opportunity for a fair evaluative process for annual regional public transportation funding applications, representing regional stakeholders and the public. Evaluative ranking of proposed services has a minor impact upon the amount of funding each provider may receive. • Discussion/Finalization. RTPO members will evaluatively rank this year’s 5310 and 5311 public transportation funding applications, based on advance review of applications and provider presentations at the 1/08/20 meeting.

WORK TO DATE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5310 and 5311 public trans. applications along with evaluative templates were emailed to RTPO members at least one to two months in advance of the 1/08/20 meeting based on when they were forwarded from NMDOT Transit & Rail Division and are available on the COG-RTPO website. • RTPO members have reviewed applications in advance of today’s meeting and will hear the presentations from providers at this meeting, and submit evaluations on the templates provided.

ANTICIPATED WORK
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5310 and 5311 public trans. application presentations at the 1/08/20 meeting • Submission of evaluations from RTPO members at the 1/08/20 meeting. • Electronic submission of evaluations to NMDOT Transit and Rail by RTPO staff after 1/08/20 meeting

ATTACHMENTS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5310 and 5311 evaluative templates

BUDGET IMPACT
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No impact upon NWRTPO budget

ACTION ITEM
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This represents the formal evaluation of annual public transportation funding applications for the NWRTPO region for FFY2021 funding.

Discussion: No discussion – members heard presentations from 5311 and 5310 public transportation staff and evaluatively ranked each public transportation provider with standardized evaluation templates. An introduction to the process and purpose was provided by Deborah Bach and Vijay Ummadi – NMDOT Transit and Rail Administration.

V. Annual Review and Authorization of Governing Documents.....Robert Kuipers

BACKGROUND

- **Why?** The NWRTPO is an organization of transportation representatives from rural tribal, community and county governments, who formally represent the interests and intent of their respective jurisdictions for transportation development in collaboration with the NMDOT. These documents govern the function of the NWRTPO, to assure proper procedure and protocol, adequate public involvement, consideration toward multi-modal / equal access for all citizens, and fair representation of local rural governments in the pursuit of transportation resources and development of infrastructure.
- **Purpose.** Members will vote to approve and authorize these documents for the year ahead.
- **Discussion/Finalization.** These governing documents will guide the function and service of the NWRTPO going forward.

WORK TO DATE

- Most of these documents were updated during the course of FFY2017 - 2018, so members are already familiar with them.

ANTICIPATED WORK

- Members will consider approval and authorization of these governing documents and elected leaders for ongoing RTPO function and service for the year ahead at today's meeting.

ATTACHMENTS

- Open Meetings Act Resolution, Title VI Plan, Public Participation Plan, Member Roster

BUDGET IMPACT

- none

ACTION ITEM

- action for approval and authorization of RTPO Governing Documents and Leaders

Discussion: There was little discussion, as these documents (Open Meetings Act Resolution, Title VI Plan, Public participation Plan, Member Roster and Elected Leaders) were covered at our December 11 meeting, and members have had a month to review. Furthermore there were no significant updates to these documents so they are just being re-authorized for FFY2020.

Motion to approve: Jack Molerres, Village of Milan, 2nd Royce Gchachu, Pueblo of Zuni – all in favor, none opposed.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

VI. LGTPF Funding Awards Process & Schedule:.....Robert Kuipers

BACKGROUND

- **Why?** Rural areas and small towns in New Mexico are suffering with deteriorating infrastructure, including transportation needs, with inadequate funding to even maintain what they have, never mind developing new infrastructure
- **Purpose.** This fund was established by the state to address rural needs in the area of transportation, to compliment the Local Govt. Road Fund and help ensure that our small towns and rural areas can support local transportation infrastructure including that which does not qualify for federal funding.
- **Discussion/Finalization.** The NWRTPO members have pursued this opportunity with a short application time frame

CURRENT WORK

- RTPO members have submitted applications to fund local projects thru this source. They can apply the funding to those cited in the RTIPR, or for other / new local roads or infrastructure, with justification for the local need. RTPO and DOT staff will clarify as needed the process going forward.

ANTICIPATED WORK
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RTPO members have completed their applications, including PFF and PPF submissions, along with project maps, supporting resolutions or letters from their leadership. These have now been awarded funding based on NMDOT Transportation Commission selection at their August meeting. The statewide MPO's and RTPO's will await guidance for implementing projects as this funding rolls out. RTPO member governments had until the end of December 2019 to complete contract agreements for this LGTPF funding – any members who still have outstanding agreements can retain their funding by providing reports every two weeks to NMDOT on progress with gaining signatures.

ATTACHMENTS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> none

BUDGET IMPACT
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This fund will add capacity for local priorities, including those that don't qualify for federal funding

ACTION ITEM
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> N/A.

Discussion:

- Robert Kuipers distributed the new bill – HB26 being introduced by Rep. Patricia Lundstrom and Senators Roberto Gonzales and Michael Padilla, replacing the former HB694 for the Local Govt. Transportation Project Fund (LGTPF). Of significance in the new bill (HB26) is the clarification replacing “Local Governments” with “Counties, Municipalities and Tribes” which clearly includes New Mexico Tribal governments as potential recipients of this funding. The title of this fund is now changed from Local Govt. Transportation Project Fund to Transportation Project Fund. Of significance for those of us in rural / small town New Mexico, is that this fund provided from our state is not limited by federal functional classification restrictions – any road or transportation facility of any size can qualify for this funding. There was some discussion regarding whether or not the “hardship clause” would be available to Tribal communities regarding the minimum 5% local match requirement.
- Ron Shutiva encouraged tribes and small communities from our region to support this bill due to it's advantages to small towns and rural regions with limited resources in our state.
- Bill Santiago reminded members to exercise due diligence around utility lines and other under-ground infrastructure when using this fund to develop transportation infrastructure.
- Ron Shutiva suggested that recreational trails or public transportation should be supported by this funding. Ron indicated there will be a finance subcommittee hearing at the Roundhouse on this new bill on January 21; Ron will try to get the information out prior to this session.

VII. Reports, Updates & Announcements:

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
<p>Regional News & Updates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regional Work Program Status Report RTPO Report Member Reports
<p>Member Special Reports:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> None submitted prior to the meeting

NMDOT Reports:

- G to G Liaison: Neala Krueger
- Tribal Liaison: Ron Shutiva
- District 6: JoAnn Garcia & staff; District 5: vacant at this time
- DOT Planning Unit – Govt. to Govt. Weekly Updates

News, Training & Funding Opportunities:

- NMDOT / UNM-LTAP: 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
- ROUTES –“Rural Opportunities to Use Transportation for Economic Success: USDOT Secretary Elaine Chao announced this new funding source supporting rural transportation needs in America – emailed to members
- 49 CFR Part 29 – Tribal Transportation Self Governance Program: New federal legislation supporting tribal self-governance – emailed to members as news came out
- LGRF Expiring Contracts: RTPO staff emailed this notification from Bill Santiago – NMDOT Dist. 6 on 10/24
- US DOT announces \$321.4 million in “Nationally Significant Federal Lands and Tribal Projects”: (NSFLTP) this funding will support maintenance repair or new construction for roads and bridges serving tribal or federal lands. <https://www.transportation.gov/briefing-room/fhwa1519>
- Title VI Training 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. Based on training length, we could provide it at one of our meetings.

A. RTPO Report – December 2019

- Reports attached for December RTPO report along with RWP Status Report. Of significance in the past month were the LGTPF Call for Projects which resulted in the provision of just over \$12 million in very equitably distributed amounts to most of our applying local governments within the RTPO and FMPO, with much appreciation to our new Transportation Commissioner Charles Lundstrom.
- **2019 NWRTPO Annual Report & Highlights** was distributed to members at this meeting.
- FHWA Planning, Environment and Realty Reports, NMDOT Planning Govt. to Govt. Reports, and AASHTO Publication Updates are regularly forwarded to members as they come out.

B. Local Member Reports & Updates:

1. Pueblo of Acoma:

- **CMGC – 4 Projects:** (*request for proposals for this new bundle of projects was published 2/10/19*)
 - CMGC2-1 Transportation Office Complex – Design is complete. Construction for the new building has commenced.
 - CMGC2-2 SP130 Veterans Blvd. – Project is complete.
 - CMGC2- 3 Baseball Fields – Design is complete; waiting on prairie dog removal before Notice to Proceed is approved and issued – construction will commence in the Spring of 2020.
 - CMGC2-4 FEMA 4352 Large Projects (39) – 14 projects have been completed; work began in the southern regions of the Pueblo. All projects to be completed by June, 2020.
- The Pueblo is continuing on the update to their Long-Range Transportation Plan; WH Pacific will do traffic analysis counts to contribute to the Pueblo’s LRTP. The Pueblo is also updating their Transportation Safety Plan at this time.
- FEMA 4352: Small Projects: Recovery work has begun; the POA Public Works / Utility Authority was awarded the small projects (64) at \$2.2 million capital investment. 35 projects have been completed; 70 projects remain – anticipating completion by March, 2020.
- LGRF: The Pueblo has received its fully executed Cooperative Agreement.
- LGTPF: The Pueblo received its cooperative agreements on Oct. 8 for the Veterans Blvd. project; the Pueblo is waiting for confirmation of funding from the DOT District 6.
- Capital Outlay: The Pueblo is ready for the 30 day session with it’s priority projects.
- Mainstreet Project: The Pueblo will add several projects to the CMGC suite to include performa for housing and economic development. These would include engineering studies, NEPA, infrastructure development and engineers estimates, and renderings for each area.

2. Pueblo of Zuni:

- 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.
- The Pueblo continues to update its long-range transportation plan.
- The Pueblo is providing base course around the Zuni Headstart facility for parking.
- The Pueblo received LTAP heavy equipment training October 28 – November 1, 2019; and are planning for another round of H.E. training next year.
- Ongoing road maintenance around the Pueblo.
- The Pueblo is working 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.**

3. McKinley County:

- The County is finishing their Local Govt. Road Fund projects including the Thoreau Town Site project 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.
- 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. The County is trying to install drainage infrastructure before the winter sets in.
- 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 last month – hope to complete shaping and base course before this Winter sets in.
- The County is doing some chipseal maintenance on Allison Road and in Pine Haven.
- The County will contract out their LGTPF project for Manuelito Canyon bridge replacement and road improvements.
- The County will benefit with \$23 million for improvements to the Carbon Coal Road intersection in Gamercos with US491, which leads to the developing Energy Logistics Park (and potential Inland Port).
- Jeff has a new cell phone and members / staff can contact him at 505-879-1159.

4. Gallup:

- Coal Avenue Commons both MAP and Legislative Agreements have been executed by the State. The City is working with Wilson & Co. and NMDOT Dist. 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.
- The East Nizhoni Blvd. Reconstruction project was awarded LGTPF funding – the contract with NMDOT was executed by the City and the State, with the electronic copy received; awaiting the original signature.
- 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.
- Working to close out COOP and Legislative agreement for the Veterans Cemetery access road by next week.
- CDBG project Sky City IV project has been officially closed. Working with the COG on submitting a new application. Public meeting is scheduled for January 7, 2020 at 5pm in the City Council Chambers.
- Staff attended FHWA Change Order training in Santa Fe; NMIFC Conference in Las Cruces – where the City of Gallup was awarded for the Veterans Cemetery; ROW Residential Relocation for Federal Projects training in Santa Fe; and CDBG application training in Albuquerque.

5. Milan:

- Coop funded project for drainage behind Allsups – design complete, project out to bid for construction soon
- Uranium and East Street drainage project will utilize LGRF funds.
- Mirabol Park design complete – Village is pursuing funding for construction.
- Berry Hill and Haystack streets Elkins Park project – Utilities, roads, parking and drainage for Elkins Park is out to bid

6. Ramah:

- BIA Projects Update:
 - BIA 125 mp 18 – 24.6 – received 100% design plans – submitting concurrence letter to FHWA.
 - BIA 125 MP O – 4.4 Received approval for updated cultural resources report to include a drainage pond and submitted a resolution for easement withdrawal; received approval from NNHPO on the updated cultural report clearances; will submit concurrence letter to FHWA for design acceptance.
 - BIA 195: submitted ROW documents to RN Realty Office
 - BIA 145 and BIA 113; Study reports will be completed soon with proposed alignments and costs to develop design documents; awaiting draft reports for review.
- Attended Proposed Rule-making for LGTPR funding on Nov. 20 at NMDOT Dist. 6.
- Submitted a resolution for Coop Agreement for Local Govt. Road Fund support – legal review from tribal officials completed; received signed documents from NMDOT Dist. 6 and will begin certification letters.
- ADA Compliance Study received final report and submitting reimbursement documents to NMDOT – TAP program.
- Assisting with RN Community Dev. Dept. for the Navajo Nation Rural Addressing Project.
- RNDOT staff attended the NM Tribal Transportation Safety Summit in Santa Fe Nov. 21-22, and TTAP Asset and Data Management training in Gallup Nov. 12-15; and 2019 National Tribal GIS Conference Nov. 19-22 in Albuquerque.
- 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.

7. Cibola County:

- ZMTP RTP trail project is funded for FFY2019 construction – may have to wait until Spring of 2020 – working with McKinley County for trails development.
- CR-18B and CR1 road / bridge projects are current priorities. CR-18B awarded LGTPF funding – LGTPF contract is complete and submitted.
- Still catching up on last year's funded projects with reduced staff, along with past weather delays.
- The County is obtaining some additional heavy equipment for transportation at this time.

8. Grants:

- Riverwalk trail: Design at 100% from WHPacific, Bids opened May 3 and the project was awarded in June – and construction is getting started.
- First Street phase 3 – Adams to Roosevelt: design at 100%; added a pond and lift station on Geis Street for drainage; allotted \$1.6 million from 2019 state legislature. Construction is now out to bid.
- 2nd Street phase 4 (Washington to Adams) and phase 5 (Adams to Roosevelt): phase 4 funded at \$1,640,573 from DOT; phase 5 the City is committing around \$1 million. Design at 100%, all cert.s and PS&E complete in May, 2019 – **construction is now complete.**
- Jefferson Drainage project and Washington bridge is at 90% design.
- Lobo Canyon and Roosevelt intersection improvements are underway

9. Pueblo of Laguna:

- 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.
- NM 124 Trail- Paraje to the Kawaika Center, a bike/ped path: Construction is 100% complete. Contractor is completing final punch list items for project close out. NMDOT mistakenly assigned this project to Pueblo of Acoma, causing progress reporting problems to Laguna, which is now mitigated with an extension. The construction contractor is completing additional punch list items FHWA and NMDOT want addressed around safety issues to complete the project.
- NM 124 Trail- Encinal Road to St. Rd. 279, a bike/ped path: The Construction Management services firm selected is Bohannon Huston Inc. Contract documents for construction bidding is complete, project was advertised for bids and the Pueblo received concurrence from FHWA on 9/3 to accept its recommendation of award. Upon final approval from the Tribal Council, the contract can be awarded.
- L26 Rainfall Road from Cubero Wash to Seama bridge M108: Notice to proceed was issued to Sierra Valley Construction; construction now in progress at 20% complete – will include a bike & ped. trail.
- BIA Road Maintenance Striping Project: Routes-L22 Casa Blanca Road, L500 Central Park Rd, L200 Twin Lakes Rd, L200 Old Bridge Rd, L200 Porkchop Hill Rd and L200 Elizabeth Bender Rd. The project was awarded – L500 roads to begin soon; L22 and L200 roads commenced in October.
- NM 124 Roundabout: The repairs to the roundabout are being coordinated by NMDOT, no start date has been determined.
- L24 Rainfall Road: design changed to two phases, Ph-1 Road & Trail and Ph-2 Conc Box Underpass, design is in progress and **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 In progress
- M108 San Jose River Bridge-Seama: PS&E complete and ROW amendments approved; pending items include EA, FONSI and NOI. The Engineer of Record will update Estimate, for submission to BIA for construction funding.
- L248 Bluejay Road and L248 Blue Star Loop: RFP published, proposals received and reviewed. Award recommendation will be presented to the Tribal Council for approval.
- Planning and Design Request for Proposal: RFP for design services published for L248 Bluejay Road and L248 Blue Star Loop, proposals were received and reviewed; recommended award to design firm is complete and will be presented to Tribal Council for approval.
- LGRF: The Pueblo has submitted extension requests to Bill Santiago at NMDOT District 6.
- The Pueblo is pursuing bi-monthly meetings with NMDOT Dist. 3, and quarterly meetings with NMDOT Dist. 6.

10. Northern Navajo:

- NMDOT Safety Projects:
 - Shiprock Chapter/Navajo DOT in coordination with NMDOT on safety project at Hwy 64 west of Hwy 491/64 intersection. Project on NM NWRTPo List – programmed for funding on NM STIP for construction in 2023. Beyond this, DOT Dist. 5 is working for intersection safety improvements with Beclabito, Gadiahii, Tsedaakaan and Shiprock chapters for US64 up to the Arizona state line.
 - Beclabito Chapter/NDOT on safety project on Hwy 64 at MP 3.0-3.5 for street lighting. In planning stage with NMDOT Dist. 5. The Chapter was awarded NM Capital Outlay funding for a helipad landing facility.
 - TseDaaKaan Chapter/NDOT safety project to improve Hwy 64 & N5031 Intersection. Project on NM NWRTPo list. Application was updated and submitted for HSIP funding. Earmarked for construction in NM STIP 2021.
 - San Juan Chapter Bridge project connecting N36 to Hwy 64 near Hogback. The feasibility studies were completed by contractor, Wilson & Company. This project would involve coordination with NM DOT and NM State Representative, Anthony Allison and other State Legislatures to obtain additional funding for preliminary engineering studies and clearances and design.

- Upperfruitland Chapter Safety Project at Hwy 371 & N36 Intersection for improvement. This Project was awarded through NM Capital Outlay fund to start on Design and Construction. Wilson & Company is assigned to complete the design which Navajo Nation will fund as match. Navajo Gaming assisted with advocacy of funding request. Assigned San Juan County, NM as lead agency to implement the project – construction to begin in summer - 2020.
- Sheep Springs Chapter is working on safety project to improve intersection at Hwy 491/134, to reduce traffic crashes and pedestrian cross walks. Pending with NMDOT District 6.
- Lee Engineering is providing a safety audit for Newcomb, Naschitti and Sheep Springs.

- Hwy 64 Shiprock Bridge replacement – a public hearing is set for Nov. 14 at the Shiprock Chapter
- Burnham Chapter is proposing for N5 hwy. intersection improvements.
- Newcomb Chapter is working on a low water crossing project funded thru state and tribal funds – needing BIA approval for a road realignment; and pushing for street lighting along Hwy 491.
- Sanostee Chapter is also pushing for street lighting along US491.
- Road Safety Audit funding awarded to Twin Lakes, Mexican Springs and Tohatchi Chapters through the LGTPF funding opportunity from the State of New Mexico.
- Local Govt. Road Fund awards to Navajo Chapter Projects as follows:
 - Sheep Springs Chapter awarded \$50K for improvements to N5002
 - Gadiahii-Tokoi Chapter awarded \$200K for improvements to N571
 - Preliminary planning in progress for a number of school bus routes around Little Water Chapter awarded \$60K for improvements – including TR4925, TR5313, N5016, N5005, and N5092.

11. Eastern Navajo:

- Bread Springs (Baahaali) Chapter awarded LGTPF funding at \$281.5 K to construct their waste transfer station access road.
- Twin Lakes, Tohatchi and Mexican Springs Chapters were awarded LGTPF funding for Road Safety Audits on US491 intersections serving these chapters.
- McKinley County has an MOU in place with the Navajo Nation (who contribute \$400,000 annually to the county for maintenance of primary Navajo Chapter roads.
- Ongoing attention from Eastern Navajo for the NM118 corridor between Rehoboth and Church Rock, around both traffic safety, road capacity expansion, economic development opportunities, and multi-modal safety options. Also a watershed study has been conducted for the NM118 corridor between Church Rock and Iyanbito to address and mitigate periodic and costly flooding of I-40 and NM118, leaving up to a foot or more of sediment on the roads, for which the DOT has to take emergency fix measures to clear these roads as quickly as possible. Wilson & Co. is working with NDOT to design roadway lighting along this corridor, and Navajo Gaming Enterprise and Church Rock Chapter have secured capital outlay funding on behalf of this lighting project
- Rock Springs Chapter has been awarded capital outlay funding to design improvements to the Chee Dodge School access road and intersection safety improvements.
- Navajo DOT looking at another Transportation Symposium coming up March 31 thru April 2, 2020 at the Farmington Convention Center; the Tribe is looking for trainers from the New Mexico side, with focus on best practices and safety.
- Navajo DOT is also considering providing quarterly TTAP trainings at the NDOT facility in Tse Bonito.
- NDOT is having meetings with Eastern Navajo Chapter areas for transportation needs
- NDOT is updating their agreements with Counties in NM, AZ and Utah at this time.
- NDOT completed a safety plan for the Arizona Counties side of the Navajo Nation – hope to do the same on the N.M. side for Northern Navajo, Eastern Navajo, and the New Mexico side of Ft. Defiance Agency.

12) San Juan County: (previous report)

- The Glade Run Trails received funding from the state.

C) State DOT Reports:

1. Planning / Govt. to Govt. Unit Liaison – Neala Krueger:

- The Road Safety Audit funded through HSIP for Naschitti, Newcomb and Sheep Springs went really well on Nov. 4-5; the final report is anticipated to be forthcoming sometime this month.

- The NMDOT Long Range Transportation Plan update will provide a website to report on four meetings to be held across the state.
- Whether or not the Recreational Trails program will be managed by the N.M. Econ. Dev. Dept. is on hold for the time being, as state officials consider which dept. (Transportation or Econ. Dev.) should take the lead.

2. NMDOT Tribal Liaison – Ron Shutiva not present this meeting; previous report follows:

- Ron has sent out statewide Tribal Contacts for 2020 and put them on the DOT website.
- 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!).
- Ron indicated that the DOT is looking for new sites for the LTAP Heavy Equipment Training and reminded RTPO members that this training remains available at any time from UNM-LTAP. Ron is working with LTAP for more tribal training opportunities; including GIS training.
- Ron's office is now within the executive state DOT office – no longer at the Planning Division.
- The Tribal Safety Summit which took place Nov. 21 – 22, 2019, at the Institute of American Indian Arts in Santa Fe was very successful and well attended.
- In the DOT Dist. 5 review for safety improvements on the US64 corridor, Ron feels they also need to look at the US64 intersection with US491 in Shiprock – beside the school zone corridor.
- Ron shared concern regarding the lack of an NDOT Eastern Navajo representative – they are putting a lot of pressure on Larry Joe!
- Ron is trying to set up quarterly meetings between NMDOT and the statewide tribes.

3. DOT District 5 – Steve Lopez (having retired - not present this meeting, previous report as follows):

- 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 in the Dist. 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.
- The District is looking at the need to replace the aging Shiprock San Juan River bridge.

4. DOT District 6 – JoAnn Garcia, Bill Santiago: (no new report – previous report as follows):

- For Local Govt. 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 Dist. 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!
- Members are encouraged to follow up with NMDOT District 6 – JoAnn Garcia regarding their LGTPF projects.

VIII. New Business / Open Floor – Members & Guests:

- Nothing to report

IX. Review Calendar & Announcements:

- FHWA Office of Planning, Environment & Realty / Human Environment Digest: Weeks of 12/8/19 and 12/15/19 – emailed to members as they came out
- Govt. to Govt. Updates: Week of 12/16/19 – emailed to members as they came out.
- AASHTO Publications Updates: Week of 12/20/19 – emailed as they came out.
- NMDOT / UNM-LTAP: 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 / **Full 2019 – 2020 UNM LTAP Course Catalogue distributed to RTPO members at this 1/08/20 meeting.**
- Intelligent Transportation Systems Professional Capacity Building Update: emailed to members 12/9/19
- USDOT T3 Webinar – Mobility on Demand: emailed to members 12/5/19

- Intelligent Transportation Systems P.C.B. Report: emailed to members 12/9/19
- ROUTES – “Rural Opportunities to Use Transportation for Economic Success: USDOT Secretary Elaine Chao announced this new funding source supporting rural transportation needs in America – emailed to members
- 49 CFR Part 29 – Tribal Transportation Self Governance Program: New federal legislation supporting tribal self-governance – emailed to members as news came out
- US DOT announces \$321.4 million in “Nationally Significant Federal Lands and Tribal Projects”: (NSFLTP) this funding will support maintenance repair or new construction for roads and bridges serving tribal or federal lands. <https://www.transportation.gov/briefing-room/fhwa1519>

X. Next Meetings:

- Feb. 12: McKinley Office of Emergency Management, 2221 Boyd Ave., Gallup, NM
- March 11: NMDOT Dist. 6 Office, 1919 Pinon Drive, Milan, NM
- April 8: Gallup Eastside Fire-station, 3700 Churchrock Street, Gallup, NM

XI. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 2:30pm; motion: Alicia Santiago - Gallup, 2nd: Larry Joe – Navajo Nation; all in favor - none opposed. Appreciation to Cibola County for refreshments and lunch!

MEETING ACTIONS:

RTPO Members:

- Gear up for the next round of LGTPF – soon to become the “Transportation Project Fund” via HB26 which specifically directs the funding to “County, Municipal and Tribal governments” rather than “Local Governments” as stated in the previous HB694 for the LGTPF fund. Gear up also for our next RTIPR update which will commence around April – May of this year.
- **Follow up with your respective NMDOT Districts on LGRF projects, as DOT District 6 is discovering that many of our local governments have serious deficiencies in the required process for executing the projects, which could jeopardize their funding.**

RTPO Staff:

- Assist as needed on process, information, or DOT guidance for Local Government Transportation Project Fund (LGTPF); follow up with members on progress, provide Special Call for Projects Guide to RTPO members.
- Ongoing: Distribute the schedule developed that provides annual or multi-year deadlines for all RTPO deliverables including reports – quarterly and annual, RTIPR Call for Projects cycle, Regional Work Program updates or amendments, and governing document updates (*Bylaws, Open Meetings Act Resolution, Title VI Plan, Public Participation Plan, Official Membership Roster*)
- Continue to update the Reg. Trans. Plan tracker instrument and pursue relevant information.
- Maintain appointment forms as members transition.
- Keep an eye on federal funding for public transportation, and inform our regional 5310 & 5311 providers and RTPO members of any pending changes

NMDOT Staff:

- Continue to press for LTAP “cradle to grave” comprehensive project development training.
- Assist in arranging a presentation on the new HSIP process.
- Continue to assist with information on the latest Transportation Bill, and the NMDOT Funding Formula.
- Technical assistance with locating data sets for RTP performance measures.



Thanks to Cibola County for hospitality