

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

Wednesday October 14, 2020
 10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.
 Virtual meeting executed via conference call
 Due to COVID-19 Pandemic

ATTENDANCE:

Local & Tribal Governments	
Entity	Representative(s)
Pueblo of Acoma	Dave Deutsawe (Chair), Raymond Concho
Pueblo of Laguna	absent
Pueblo of Zuni	Royce Gchachu, Roxann Hughte - excused
Navajo Nation	Larry Joe (<i>Northern & Eastern Agencies</i>)
Ramah Navajo	Shane Lewis
City of Grants	Don Jaramillo (Vice-Chair)
City of Gallup	absent
Village of Milan	absent
Cibola County	Judy Horacek
McKinley County	Rodney Skersick
San Juan County	absent
Farmington Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) – Ex-officio	Not in attendance

New Mexico Department of Transportation (NMDOT)	
Entity	Representative(s)
RTPO Liaison	Neala Krueger
District 5	Stephanie Medina - present, James Mexia - absent
District 6	JoAnn Garcia, Bill Santiago
Tribal Liaison	Ron Shutiva
Other NMDOT Staff / Guests	none

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

Tally Sheet – Attendance & Quorum

Total Full Attendance:	Member Entities:	NMDOT	RTPO	Guests	Full Attendance Norm:	
	12	Normally 4-5: DOT Liaison, Tribal Liaison, District 5 & 6 Representatives	1	varies	17	
Attendance – this meeting:	Member Attendance:	NMDOT Attendance:	Staff:	Guests:	Attendance % this meeting:	TOTAL:
	7	5	1	0	75%	13

ROUTINE ITEMS:

Item #	Item
I.	Call to Order and Introductions. The meeting was called to order at 10:15 am, Bob Kuipers welcomed those in attendance, and proceeded with introductions and approval of agenda and minutes. The meeting was conducted via conference call, due to the COVID-19 pandemic.
II.	Agenda. RTPO Program Manager provided an overview of the day’s agenda topics. ACTION: Don Jaramillo (Grants) motioned and Dave Deutsawe (Acoma) seconded adoption of the agenda. All in favor – motion carried.
III.	Minutes (September 9, 2020). Chairman provided time for review of minutes and no comments or revisions were made. ACTION: Judy Horacek (Cibola) motioned and Shane Lewis (Ramah Navajo) seconded adoption of the minutes. All in favor – motion carried.

ACTION ITEMS:

Item #	Item	Presenter
IV.	Approve & Authorize 2020 Regional Transportation Plan update. Voting action to approve and authorize withheld until November meeting or thereafter as 2020 updates are not finalized yet.	Robert Kuipers, Program Manager

BACKGROUND

- **Why?** The NWRTPO makes minor updates to its Regional Transportation Plan every year; but every 5 years the NWRTPO undertakes a more major update to its RTP in sync. with NMDOT’s LRTP update.
- **Purpose.** This year the NWRTPO will undertake a more significant update to our Regional Transportation Plan, and try to some extent to coordinate / synchronize our priorities with those represented within the NM-LRTP update that have appeal or utility within our region.
- **Discussion/Finalization.** Members will be provided 1) a concise summary and 2) a more detailed summary outlining the process and schedule for our RTP update.

CURRENT WORK

- Members have been encouraged to familiarize with our Regional Transportation Plan on the NWNM Council of Governments website, and consider what interests their respective regional govt. jurisdiction may have for inclusion in our more significant RTP update this year. If the RTP update is complete at this meeting members will vote to approve and authorize the NWRTPO 2020 RTP update.

ANTICIPATED WORK

- Members will be asked to consider and contribute toward updating our RTP this year to insure that their respective interests are represented in the final document – anticipating completion in September or October, 2020; or thereafter if the process takes longer.
- Members will be **particularly asked to update their govt. jurisdiction’s priorities** for Appendix 2 – Public Outreach Report, which cites forthcoming priorities for both our region (p.85) and our respective NWRTPO Member Governments pp. 86 – 103. It will be important for our respective members to **execute update recommendations for this section within specified timelines**; those who do not respond will be left out. These new priorities can reflect both current RTIPR project priorities, as well as new prioritized directions or interests that participating member governments wish to pursue for multi-modal transportation maintenance or development.

ATTACHMENTS

- Quick Summary – FFY2020 NWRTPO Regional Transportation Plan Update.
- General Schedule for NWRTPO Regional Transportation Plan Update.
- Member survey for the RTP update

BUDGET IMPACT
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None
ACTION ITEM
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No action this meeting as the RTP update is not yet complete. Staff will continue to build the 2020 RTP update based on new information compiled thru research and finalize for member voting to approve and authorize in November or thereafter, depending on a) how long our update takes, and b) our efforts to synchronize with the 2020 NMDOT Long Range Transportation Plan update, which is still ongoing.

Discussion: Some RTPO members have contributed along with some of our regional stakeholders for the 2020 update by this time. Some of our members mentioned that they are also updating their respective local governments long range plans at this time and may wish to contribute ideas from their respective plans going forward. Staff indicated that there is no deadline for the 2020 update, as the NMDOT major update to the statewide LRTP is still in process, and we wish to align ours with the state’s priorities going forward, so input from RTPO members and the public is still encouraged as staff continue to build updates before finalizing the 2020 RTP update for member approval and authorization at a future RTPO meeting.

DISCUSSION/PRESENTATION ITEMS:

Item #	Item	Presenter
V.	Review & Discuss: Project Feasibility Forms Due (RTIPR Revision)	Robert Kuipers, Program Manager
BACKGROUND		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Why? Every two years (biennial basis) the NWRTPO engages a Call for Projects process to invite new projects into the NWRTPO RTIPR for our local municipal, tribal and county member governments. This process engages a series of document forms and meetings to assure that proposed new projects are both local / regional priorities and qualify for state and federal funding. Purpose. To engage the NWRTPO members in discussion on progress with Project Feasibility Forms to qualify new projects for inclusion in the FFY2021 RTIPR Revision for the NWRTPO. Discussion/Finalization. There will not be a formal Call for Projects in FFY2020: the NWRTPO will simply update the RTIPR Revision with PFF’s for new projects or phases due at our October 14 meeting. 		
CURRENT WORK		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RTPO members will discuss the RTIPR revision process and timeline. At this time staff will cover progress with updating the RTIPR by removing projects or project phases that have already been funded, and adding new projects or phases via PFF’s. The NWRTPO will not undertake the entire process recommended in the Call for projects, and simply add projects to the RTIPR via PFF’s – since funding is not anticipated until FFY2021. 		
ANTICIPATED WORK		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RTPO members will discuss progress with eliminating funded projects or phases in the current RTIPR, and inserting new projects or phases via PFF’s for the FFY2020 – FFY2021 NWRTPO RTIPR revision – due at this meeting. 		
ATTACHMENTS		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RTIPR Revision Timeline PFF form – fillable 		
BUDGET IMPACT		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None. 		
ACTION ITEM		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No formal (vote) action however members will recommend projects or phases that have been funded for removal, and b) submit PFF’s for new projects or phases which are due at/by this meeting. 		

Discussion: To date RTPO staff have only received PFFs from Cibola County, Grants, Milan, McKinley County and Gallup. Navajo Nation PFF’s are in progress and have been granted more time based on discussion with RTPO staff. No further discussion with RTPO members.

Item #	Topic	Presenter
VI.	Presentation: Annual Member Survey	Robert Kuipers
BACKGROUND		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why? On an annual basis the NWRTPO conducts a survey to gauge the quality of program services and consider new priorities going forward • Purpose. 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 • Discussion/Finalization. Members will be provided the survey via hard copy and email 		
CURRENT WORK		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide survey options so members can complete and submit no later than 10/14/20 		
ANTICIPATED WORK		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff will summarize survey results and provide feedback to members and DOT staff in October 		
ATTACHMENTS		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • FFY2020 Member Survey Form 		
BUDGET IMPACT		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None. 		
ACTION ITEM		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N/A. Based on member feedback, staff will consider and develop recommendations for FFY2021 		

Members were asked to complete the FFY2020 member survey by our October meeting; to date no surveys have come in. Staff will send out the annual member survey again, requesting members to complete and send it in at their earliest convenience. Staff chose not to put this out on Survey Monkey, as it's a relatively simple survey, as compared to our recent Regional Transportation Plan update survey (which most of our members have responded to on Survey Monkey). Staff are again asking our members to complete the survey in the near future at their convenience as their respective work schedules permit.

Item #	Topic	Presenter
VII.	Member Reports on Local Leader RTPO 2020 Virtual Orientation Presentation	Robert Kuipers
BACKGROUND		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why? At least every three (3) years the NWRTPO executes an orientation presentation for the purpose, function and service of the RTPO for transportation infrastructure and services development and maintenance for our three county region, on behalf of local elected leaders. • Purpose. To assure that elected leaders – County and City Managers / Mayors, Commission or Council members, and elected Tribal leaders – especially new leaders, are oriented to the purpose and service of the NWRTPO for transportation development and maintenance in our region. • Discussion/Finalization. RTPO members to report on execution of the virtual orientation presentation 		
CURRENT WORK		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The virtual orientation was distributed to our RTPO members on June 23 - 2020, to commence the provision of this presentation to their respective municipal, county or tribal leaders. 		
ANTICIPATED WORK		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RTPO staff have developed a tracking instrument to document which elected leaders have viewed the NWRTPO orientation from each of our member governments participating in the NWRTPO. Members will be requested to report on which of their leaders have viewed the orientation to date, as well as completing the Orientation Tracking Instrument for our documentation. 		
ATTACHMENTS		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Orientation Tracking Instrument 		

BUDGET IMPACT	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None 	
ACTION ITEM	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members will report and complete the tracking instrument regarding the provision of the NWRTPO Orientation presentation to their respective leaders. 	

Discussion: The Virtual Orientation was initially distributed to members on June 23, to be provided to local County, Municipal and Tribal Leaders including Mayors, Managers, Tribal Presidents, and Council or Commission members. Staff developed a Local Leader RTPO Orientation Tracking instrument provided to RTPO members as well to help them track and report back completion of the orientation to their respective leaders. **If any of our members missed the Virtual orientation and/or the tracking instrument provided via email, contact Robert Kuipers to send these your way again – 505/722-4327 or rkuipers@nwnmcog.org .**

Item #	Topic	Presenter
VIII.	Reports, Updates & Announcements	Robert Kuipers
BACKGROUND		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Why? Update RTPO members on news, training, funding, and other items of special interest Purpose. Keep RTPO members up to date on critical information from NWRTPO and NMDOT sources 		
Informational Items		
Regional News & Updates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regional Work Program Status Report RTPO Report Member Reports 		
Member Special Reports: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> None submitted prior to the meeting 		
NMDOT Reports: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> G to G Liaison: Neala Krueger Tribal Liaison: Ron Shutiva District 6: JoAnn Garcia & staff; District 5: James Mexia, Stephanie Medina 		
News, Training & Funding Opportunities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> FHWA Planning, Environment & Realty Reports: 9/3, 9/11, 9/21 and 10/1 NMDOT Govt. to Govt. Update: 9/11 and 10/1 AASHTO Publications: none this past month (!) 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 – Online courses notice forwarded to members as LTAP emails come in National Strategic Freight Plan webinar: 9/3 Tribal Transportation Planning: 9/11 Intelligent Transportation Systems Update: 9/11 Every Day Counts Innovation Exchange webinar: 9/16 Rt. 66 Grant Opportunities: 9/16 Chee Dodge Road Safety Audit report: 9/16 USDOT Hydraulics Analysis: 9/21 FHWA Tribal Transportation Program: 9/24 Federal Grants Advisory: 9/30 FHWA Center for Local Aid Newsletter: 10/1 <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. Based on training length, we could provide it at one of our meetings. 		

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.

Mr. Kuipers provided Staff work-hours and expenditures report for September along with the October staff monthly report.

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

Pueblo of Acoma

- Pueblo concluded project development on March 17 related to the COVID-19 pandemic; resumed project development on May 17. Pueblo of Acoma remained closed thru June 2; contractors are now two months behind due to COVID-19 pandemic.
- CMGC2 – 1: Construction of new office for Transportation and other Departments is underway – anticipate completion by August 28, 2020.
- 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. **Baseball Fields improvement is now in progress (October).**
- CMGC2 – 4 Projects: (*request for proposals for this new bundle of projects was published 2/10/19*)
- FEMA 4352 Large Projects (39) – 38 projects have been completed; work began in the southern regions of the Pueblo, just a few more to go. **FEMA projects are anticipated to be completed by the end of October (104 projects!)**
- 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. To mitigate COVID 19 delays, the Pueblo has developed a survey for public input **which is also available on Survey Monkey**; beyond this public involvement will be postponed till a later date. The completion date has now been moved to December, 2020. **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.
- 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. The work was scheduled for completion by March 2020 but due to COVID-19 the completion date is pending a re-start, at which time a new completion date will be established.
- 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 – absent this meeting

- 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. **The Zuni Tribe partially opened on Oct. 13, 2020 at 50% capacity. Still exercising the CDC safety requirements in the workplace. Visitations only thru appointments.**
- 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 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 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.**

McKinley County

- **The County has completed their funded projects for 2019 and is now getting started on projects funded for 2020.**
- 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 within the next week with fog-sealing remaining.
- Purchase orders for chips (sealing) for Pillowcrest Road have been obtained. Working on getting a list of culverts needed for Bowman Road. Work to progress as weather permits.
- 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 anticipated until this coming summer around weather issues.
- 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 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.**
- **Ongoing county-wide maintenance including blading, patching potholes, cleaning culverts, repairing bridges / guardrails, etc.**

Gallup – absent this meeting

- NOO's have been processed for the Gallup Mainstreet Project – construction anticipated to commence July 1. Coal Avenue Commons project commenced ground breaking on May 13.
- Nizhoni and W. Aztec improvements are currently in design.
- 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.
- 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. Design in progress at this time.
- **Local Govt. Road Fund projects and funding are on the agenda this month for approval.**

Milan – absent this meeting

No report yet for this meeting – as the village has a brand new manager who is also the new primary representative to the NWRTPPO by the name of Sarah Austin, who needs more time to learn where the village is with regard to transportation priorities.

Ramah

- **Ramah Navajo has three (3) positions in transportation management open for any interested applicants.**
- **COVID 19 curfews were extended thru October.**
- 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
 - BIA 145 and BIA 113: Received draft report for BIA 145 and BIA 113.
- **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.**
- 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.

Cibola County

- **Cibola County is looking for a new Road Superintendent as Gary Porter retired; candidates should preferably have education and experience in transportation engineering.**
- **The County is doing "blade and shape" maintenance on 84.7 miles of 14 County Roads; and a variety of other maintenance (cattle guards / culverts / sign repair / tree trimming & weed control / mowing / pot-hole patching / and minor road repairs) for 24 county roads.**
- ZMTP RTP trail project is funded for FFY2020 construction – working with McKinley County for trails development beginning with the Quartz Hill Trail Head. Construction will likely not proceed until FFY2021 Spring & Summer for the Cibola portion of the Zuni Mountain Recreational Trails.
- CR-18B and CR1 road / bridge projects are current priorities. CR-18B awarded LGTPF funding – LGTPF contract is complete and submitted.
- 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.**
- 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. Final PS&E is scheduled for this August and project letting is scheduled for September. Total project stands at \$6.2 million.
- 2nd street bridge out to bid for construction to commence in July – delay due to COVID-19 pandemic.
- Washington bridge replacement over 2nd Street through LGTPF funding will include a walking opportunity for High School students; project construction is underway – commenced in June.
- Lobo Canyon and Roosevelt intersection improvements are underway

Pueblo of Laguna (absent this meeting)

- **The Pueblo remains closed to the public, and administration is closed until the COVID-19 Pandemic resides.**
- 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- Encinal Road to St. Rd. 279, a bike/ped path: The Construction Management services firm selected is Bohannon Huston Inc. Construction NTP was issued in January. Construction is at 17% complete. Desert Fox Paving has cleared and grubbed the first half of the trail and working on subgrade. Completion date is set for September per approved construction schedule.
- L26 Rainfall Road from Cubero Wash to Seama bridge M108: Construction has been completed, including a bike & ped. trail.
- 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; Pueblo is closing out these projects at this time.
- LGRF / BIA Road Maintenance Striping Projects: Phase 2 & 3: Phase 2 – working on ITS certs. for L500 Mountain Ash Loop and Central Park roads. Phase 3 – working on NMDOT certs for L540 – Veterans Memorial Road and L200 Elizabeth Bender Road. Construction to commence this summer for both phases.
- 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 95% 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 – draft report has been submitted to the Pueblo and BIA.
- M108 San Jose River Bridge-Seama: PS&E complete and ROW amendments approved; pending items include EA, FONSI and NOI.
- L248 Bluejay Road and L248 Blue Star Loop: RFP published, proposals received, reviewed and awarded. A kick off meeting will be held in March.
- Pueblo's Safety Plan: Phase 1 is complete and the Pueblo is intending to apply for additional planning funds to continue plan development.
- NMDOT I-40 Safety Project: The Pueblo met with NMDOT on March 3. Design is at 90%; NMDOT hopes to let the project this summer.

Navajo Nation – Northern Agency

- Larry Joe requests COG RTPO Manager to help him include US491 RSA recommendations Naschitti to Newcomb as proposed projects in our 2020 RTIPR revision.
- **Navajo DOT is commencing their Long Range Transportation Plan for 2021**
- **Navajo DOT is still looking for someone to fill an administrative position for Eastern Navajo**
- **Karen Bedonie has been re-assigned and Larry anticipates a new Planning Director**
- Shiprock High School Safety corridor project is earmarked for **2023 NMDOT STIP** for three land road widening construction. Will remain on RTIP.
- TseDaaKaan Chapter (Hogback) N5031/Hwy 64 Safety intersection improvement is earmarked for 2021 NMDOT STIP for construction. Final review with local residents. Take off the list, when project is completed.
- **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 need of additional funding to complete the project. Project will on RTIP.*
- **Local Government Road Fund 2019**- Project funded to work on preliminary studies at Littlewater community of Sanostee Chapter. Completed SAS 164 Review, the Project Manager will begin working with the chapter on layout plans for the project. Project will remain on RTIP for future funding of road improvements.

- **Local Government Road Fund 2018-** Gadiahii-Tokoi Chapter was awarded for road improvement on route N571 for one mile chip seal. The contractor was selected and ready for construction. Will close out very soon. Once project is completed it will be taken out of the RTIP list.
- **Local Government Road Fund 2018-** Sheep Springs Chapter was awarded for road improvement on route N5002 for one-mile road graveling. The project is ready for construction. Will be taken off the list once the project is 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.
- **Road Safety Audit-** this is new project at Newcomb, Naschitti, and Sheep Springs. Lee Engineering worked with local chapter officials and schools to complete the RSA on November 4-5, 2019. Waiting on the reports or studies. Reports were made available. We will add the recommendations list to RTIP for future funding of the projects.
- **US 64 Study Improvement Plan-** NMDOT officials recently met with local chapters (Beclabito, Gadiahii, Tsedaakaan, Shiprock) on the review and conditions of the highway and improvement plan process is for this 20 plus miles Hogback to AZ Stateline. Project still Planning stage. It will need to remain on the RTIP List for future road improvement, which includes road reconstruction, and bridges replacements.
- **Hwy 64 Shiprock Bridge Replacement-** public hearing is set for 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.

Navajo Nation – Eastern Navajo

- 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.
- Mexican Chapter- Road Safety Audit, project in progress on contracting out to complete the RSA studies. Will be added to RTIP for construction project.
- Twin Lakes Chapter- Road Safety Audit, project in progress on contracting out to complete the RSA studies. Will be added to RTIP for construction project.
- Tohatchi Chapter- Road Safety Audit, project progress on contracting out to complete the RSA studies. Will be added to RTIP for construction project.
- Iyanbito Chapter- Received Local Government Road Fund, it would need more funding to complete the road improvements. Will be added to RTIP for road improvement Chip Sealing.
- Iyanbito Chapter- I-40 -Project is seeking funding for drainage improvement and overpass studies, design and construction to provide safe entering and existing I-40. Will be added to RTIP.
- Mariano Lake Chapter- Red Willow road in progress to complete the road improvement.

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

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

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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New news in bold

Multimodal Planning & Programs Bureau – Neala Krueger

- **The US491 RSA is now complete with potential for HSIP funding in FFY 2022.** Lee Engineering emailed stakeholders the final US-491 Road Safety Audit Report and appendix on June 2nd. This RSA comprised Naschitti, Newcomb, and Sheep Springs communities and was funded via HSIP. Any further questions, response letters, or letters of support can be directed to Neala Krueger. Feedback from the Navajo Chapters is still pending.
- **The state will be conducting an RSA for the area around the I-40 and US491 intersection in Gallup (including Walmart – to possibly commence November 6. Numerous pedestrian accidents in recent years.**
- The NMDOT Long Range Transportation Plan website/portal is available at <https://newmexico2045plan.com/>. Please complete the survey. Also, share your feedback, thoughts, and ideas through the “Contact Us” form. In light of COVID-19, stakeholder workshops were conducted in July through a virtual, webinar format. Neala will send the URL link for info. and reports on the State LRTP update and Robert K. will forward to members.
- NMDOT Planning is undertaking a Pedestrian Safety Action Plan. A public survey and input map is available at: <https://nmpedplan.altaplanning.cloud/#/>

NMDOT Tribal Liaison – Ron Shutiva

- **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.**

- **Ron recommends comparing the NWRTPO Regional Transportation Plan update with other statewide RTPO's to see if any new ideas are available, and whether there might be opportunity for more consistency between statewide RTPO's.**
- **News is brewing that President Trump is trying to close the Census count early!**
- **A statewide tribal presentation will take place for the statewide Pedestrian Safety Action Plan via Zoom from 6-7pm on October 28.**
- **There will be a virtual State Tribal Leaders Summit on November 17.**
- Ron is reminding all RTPO members to be sure to check that their Capital Outlay, T.I.F. and L.G.R.F. projects are active and on track, because if no action has been initiated for too long a time it is highly probable that the State will retract the funding – due to the significant reduction in tax revenues related to the significantly negative impact of COVID-19 on tax revenues from the private sector!
- Ron indicated that there will be another tribal stakeholder workshop for the NM 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan on July 22.
- Ron indicated that the Laguna I-40 improvement project is moving forward from Exit 112 to 117.
- A report will be forthcoming for the NM118 Iyanbito area drainage study on July 29.
- 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.
- Many tribes benefited from the recent LGTPF funding opportunity – which is now called the Transportation Project Fund from the State of New Mexico. New funding from this source not anticipated until FFY2021.
- The Pueblo Cultural Center in Albuquerque has a “Pueblo Relief Fund” available, and around \$300K has already been distributed. Go to PuebloReliefFund.org.
- 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!**
- Ron shared concern regarding the lack of an NDOT Eastern Navajo representative – they are putting a lot of pressure on Larry Joe!

NMDOT District 5 – James Mexia, Stephanie Medina

- **Stephanie present (James absent) – no new news from DOT Dist. 5.**
- 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 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.
- The District is looking at the need to replace the aging Shiprock San Juan River bridge.
- 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.
- D-5 staff are reminding local governments that Coop Projects are due by December, 2020.

NMDOT District 6 - JoAnn Garcia, Bill Santiago

- **Thanks to RTPO members - all LGRF FY21 Government Agreements, including supporting resolutions have come in (Bill S.) For earlier LGRF (ie previous years) agreements – request for extensions with supporting resolutions must be submitted before the end of December!!**
- JoAnn Garcia reminded members to check up on their Capital Outlay projects in the CPM system, to make sure their projects are submitted and up to date, with the required minimal 5% match.
- 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!
- Members are encouraged to follow up with NMDOT District 6 – JoAnn Garcia regarding their LGTPF projects.

NEW BUSINESS/OPEN FLOOR: MEMBERS & GUESTS (5-minute limit)

- None this meeting

ANNOUNCEMENTS & NEXT MEETING: No announcements – **next meeting December 9** – virtual meeting (otherwise hosted by Ramah Navajo) dial in: 515-606-5166 / access code: 301965 **The November 11 meeting has been cancelled for Veterans Day out of due respect to those who have fought for - or been trained and positioned to fight to protect our nation and way of life.**

ADJOURNMENT (11:30 am)

ACTION: *Larry Joe* – (Navajo DOT) moved and *Raymond Concho Jr.* (Pueblo of Acoma) seconded for adjournment Motion carried by acclamation.

MEETING ACTIONS:

RTPO Members:

- *RTPO Meeting Schedule:* Review and confirm in advance if meetings cannot be held in person due to COVID-19 restrictions.
- Don Jaramillo and Mark Teshima to work with Luke Smith - NMDOT Central Regional Design, for First Street phase 3 (control # 6100700) to reduce six different project control numbers back into one project control number, as the City has the funding to complete the project. Luke does not understand what happened within NMDOT to divide the project into six different segments when the City has the funding to complete the entire (final phase) project. Luke will work with the Santa Fe STIP Coordinator and NMDOT District 6 to reduce the project back to one final phase with one control number for the entire project – since the City has the funding to complete the project.

RTPO Staff:

- *RTPO Orientation Video:* Produce and distribute a video for members and governing bodies. – **complete – Staff to follow up with RTPO members to see which governments have had their respective leaders review the video to remain or become familiar with the RTPO function and service to local governments.** Staff have developed a tracking instrument thru which RTPO members can document and submit regarding which of their respective leaders have viewed the orientation.

NMDOT Staff:

- *New Mexico Transportation Plan Update:* July 14 Virtual Stakeholder workshop was provided. *This meeting conducted in virtual conf. call mode due to COVID-19 restrictions.* **Neala Krueger emailed the latest information from the state on the LRTP update and Robert Kuipers forwarded to RTPO members.**