

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

Wednesday November 13, 2019  
10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.  
Milan Parks & Recreation Office  
409 Airport Road, Milan, N.M.

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**ATTENDANCE:**

**Local & Tribal Governments:**

Pueblo of Acoma	Vice Chair – <b>Dave Deutsawe; Raymond Concho</b>
Pueblo of Laguna	<b>Gaylord Siow</b>
Pueblo of Zuni	<b>Royce Gchachu</b>
Navajo Nation	Eastern Navajo: <b>Larry Joe</b> Northern Navajo: <b>Larry Joe</b>
Ramah Navajo	<b>Shane Lewis</b>
Farmington MPO	Vacant at this time
City of Grants	<b>Don Jaramillo</b>
City of Gallup	<b>Stan Henderson</b>
Village of Milan	<b>Jack Moleres</b>
Cibola County	Judy Horacek – absent, <b>representative attending</b>
McKinley County	Chair – <b>Jeff Irving</b>
San Juan County	Scott Martin, Nick Porell - absent

**Technical Agencies:**

Govt. to Govt. Liaison: **Neala Krueger**  
DOT District 5: Steve Lopez - absent  
DOT District 6: **JoAnn Garcia, Marticia Holliday**  
DOT Tribal Liaison: **Ron Shutiva**  
DOT – Admin:

**NWRTPO Administration:**

Northwest Regional Planning Organization: **Robert Kuipers, Evan Williams**

**Guests:**

- **George Dodge – NMDOT Local Govt. Relations Director**; Rodney Skersic – McKinley Roads; Christine Sam – Mex. Springs Chapter; Gabriel Sanchez-Ramos – NMDOT Dist. 6; Roselyn John – Chichiltah Chapter, Gloria Eskeet de Cruz – Baahaali Chapter; Monica Felipe – Pueblo of Acoma

**TOTAL ATTENDANCE:**

9 Members, 2 alternate members, 4 NMDOT, 2 RTPO Staff,  
7 guests – TOTAL: 24

- I. **Call to Order and Introductions:**.....Jeff Irving – RTPO Chair
- Mr. Irving called the meeting to order at 10:20 am, welcomed those in attendance, and proceeded with introductions and approval of agenda and minutes. The meeting was hosted by the Village of Milan, with special thanks for coffee, snacks and lunch provided.
- II. **Review & Approval of Agenda:**.....Jeff Irving – RTPO Chair
- Motion to Approve: Dave Deutsawe – Pueblo of Acoma; 2<sup>nd</sup> Gaylord Siow – Pueblo of Laguna; all in favor none opposed
- III. **Approval and Review of Minutes for 8/14/19 meeting:**.....Jeff Irving – RTPO Chair
- Motion to Approve: Royce Gchachu -Pueblo of Zuni; 2<sup>nd</sup> Jack Moleres – Village of Milan, all in favor, none opposed.

**ACTION ITEMS:** none this meeting

**DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

- IV. **NMDOT Local Govt. Relations Director** (and former State Representative).....Mr. George Dodge

**BACKGROUND**

- **Why?** Mr. Dodge was hired in a new position within NMDOT to help improve NMDOT collaboration with local governments for transportation development on a state wide basis – he does not replace the current NMDOT liaisons to the RTPO's and MPO's.
- **Purpose.** Mr. Dodge is scheduling visits with MPO's and RTPO's around the state to get acquainted, and introduce himself and his position, which will provide additional focus within the NMDOT for positive collaboration with local governments statewide for transportation services and development.
- **Discussion/Finalization.** Members were pleased that NMDOT is taking another step to improve collaboration and support toward local governments and their needs – especially for rural areas and small towns, where transportation funding and matching funding come with considerable difficulty.

**CURRENT WORK**

- Simply an opportunity for Mr. Dodge to introduce himself and his position, and hear from our members on issues, concerns, and success stories from our region.

**ANTICIPATED WORK**

- Members will look forward to engaging and collaborating with Mr. Dodge around issues, concerns, and funding opportunities for future transportation development.

**ATTACHMENTS**

- None at this time.

**BUDGET IMPACT**

- None.

**ACTION ITEM**

- N/A. It is anticipated that Mr. Dodge's position will benefit rural areas and small towns going forward.

**Discussion:** As a former State Legislator and County Manager Mr. Dodge has considerable experience with rural and small town issues in New Mexico. He was recently the Vice Chair – working with our own Rep. Patricia Lundstrom – who is the current Chair of the Appropriations Committee for the State Legislature. Through his career of public service he has considerable experience with rural and small town New Mexico issues. There was much discussion with members around navigating start-up “hiccups” with the new LGTPF funding, along with much appreciation for this fund that is not limited by functional classification. Members represented that they hope the new LGTPF funding from the state will not result in the elimination of the ongoing Local Govt. Road Fund opportunity that also benefits small towns and rural areas significantly.

**V. Annual 5311 / 5310 Public Transportation Application Ranking – 1/8/20.....Robert Kuipers**

**BACKGROUND**

- **Why?** The NMDOT Transit & Rail Division has established an annual evaluation process for 5310 (elderly / handicapped) 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 years 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**

- 5310 and 5311 public trans. applications along with evaluative templates were emailed to RTPO members two months in advance of the 1/08/20 meeting.
- RTPO members will a) review applications in advance of the meeting and b) hear the presentations from providers at the meeting, and submit evaluations on the templates provided.

**ANTICIPATED WORK**

- 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**

- 5310 and 5311 evaluative templates

**BUDGET IMPACT**

- No impact upon NWRTPO budget

**ACTION ITEM**

- This represents the formal evaluation of annual public transportation funding applications for the NWRTPO region.

**Discussion:**

- Note that after the 11/13 meeting, at NMDOT Transit and Rail Division's request, the NWRTPO has delayed the annual evaluative ranking of 5310 and 5311 public transportation funding applications until their January 8, 2020 meeting at the Cibola Convention Center – 515 High Street in Grants.
- RTPO members have been instructed to review 5310 and 5311 annual funding applications in advance of our 1/8/20 meeting in Grants. Due to the large size of some applications – making them unable to send by email, **all applications are available for review on the NWNMCOG – RTPO website page; go to NWNMCOG on any search engine, ([www.nwnmcog.com](http://www.nwnmcog.com)); go to programs on the top menu; then to Regional Transportation Planning Organization; then to FTA Transit Applications to access and review the applications.** Note that two additional 5310 applications have come in and been added since the initial posting – these include the Coyote Canyon Rehabilitation Center (CCRC) – McKinley County / Navajo Nation; and Capacity Builders out of Farmington. **RTPO members are reminded to review these applications well in advance of our 1/08/20 meeting – it is unfair and unethical to base scoring of funding applications simply based on presentations from our public transportation providers at the 1/08/20 meeting – members should review the details of the written applications in advance of this meeting!**

**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**

- 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.
- **The NMDOT Admin. is requesting public hearings on LGTPF awards; the NWRTPO / DOT District 6 will conduct the public hearing for our region at the Dist. 6 Auditorium on November 20. These hearings are to establish the rules for LGTPF funding going forward, and will not affect current awards.**
- **Funding having been awarded, members have till end of December to sign & return contracts.**

**ATTACHMENTS**

- LGTPF Awarded Projects from the Transportation Commission.

**BUDGET IMPACT**

- This fund will add capacity for local priorities, including those that don't qualify for federal funding

**ACTION ITEM**

- N/A.

**Discussion:**

- Staff announced that NMDOT will hold public hearings on the proposed rule making (governing the process and eligible recipients) for future LGTPF disbursements from the state. The hearing for our region will take place next week at NMDOT District 6 Auditorium on November 20, 1 – 3pm. All RTPO members with interest in LGTPF funding are encouraged to attend. This will allow the NMDOT to better standardize the process for future funding roll out from the state for LGTPF funding.
- There was considerable discussion on this year's anticipated roll out, with many Chapter recipients in the audience; it was announced that funding agreement contracts are now out to the local governments, and that the deadline to get them back to NMDOT would be the end of December, 2019.
- RTPO staff and DOT staff encouraged members to start considering and preparing for identification of projects for next year's LGTPF Call for Projects. In the future – project prioritization will be required of requesting local governments and the RTPO's.
- RTPO members need to "stay on their toes" to meet deadlines as this funding roles out. There were quite a number of guests at today's meeting from Navajo Chapters with interest in the roll out of this funding. Some extensive discussion followed around Chapters navigating the Navajo Nation 164 process, in order to get funding agreements signed and returned to NMDOT by or before the end of December.

## VII. Reports, Updates & Announcements:

BACKGROUND	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Why?</b> Update RTPO members on news, training, funding, and other items of special interest</li> <li>• <b>Purpose.</b> Keep RTPO members up to date on critical information from NWRTPO and NMDOT sources</li> </ul>	
Informational Items	
<b>Regional News &amp; Updates</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regional Work Program Status Report</li> <li>• RTPO Report</li> <li>• Member Reports</li> </ul>
<b>Member Special Reports:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• None submitted prior to the meeting</li> </ul>
<b>NMDOT Reports:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• G to G Liaison: Neala Krueger</li> <li>• Tribal Liaison: Ron Shutiva</li> <li>• District 6: JoAnn Garcia &amp; staff; District 5: Steve Lopez</li> <li>• DOT Planning Unit – Govt. to Govt. Weekly Updates</li> </ul>
<b>News, Training &amp; Funding Opportunities:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <u>NMDOT / UNM-LTAP</u>: Provides a very robust collection of training opportunities – staff forward news to members as it comes out from this source – reference at <a href="http://ltap.unm.edu">ltap.unm.edu</a></li> <li>• <u>Innovation Exchange Webinar – Value Capture for Local Agencies</u>: covering how transportation development can leverage the value of local property thus creating more infrastructure investment appeal to funding agencies – offered August 8; emailed to members 7/31/19; commenced in June, ends in November.</li> <li>• <u>US DOT announces \$321.4 million in “Nationally Significant Federal Lands and Tribal Projects”</u>: (NSFLTP) this funding will support maintenance repair or new construction for roads and bridges serving tribal or federal lands. <a href="https://www.transportation.gov/briefing-room/fhwa1519">https://www.transportation.gov/briefing-room/fhwa1519</a></li> <li>• <u>Tribal Safety Summit</u>: November 21-22, 2019; Institute of American Indian Arts – 83 Avon Nu Po Rd., Santa Fe. Staff forwarded news for this Summit as new reports came out.</li> <li>• <u>ROUTES – “Rural Opportunities to Use Transportation for Economic Success</u>: USDOT Secretary Elaine Chao announced this new funding source supporting rural transportation needs in America – emailed to members</li> <li>• <u>LGRE Expiring Contracts</u>: RTPO staff emailed this notification from Bill Santiago – NMDOT Dist. 6 on 10/24 – <b>members should review and request extensions if needed !!</b></li> <li>• <u>NM Fund-It Economic Development funding</u>: potential match \$ for transportation projects – emailed 11/6/19.</li> <li>• <u>NADO Impact Award</u>: The NWNMCOG was the only New Mexico recipient of this forthcoming award from the National Association of Development Organizations for the ongoing development of recreational trails in the Zuni Mtns.</li> </ul>
<b>New Business / Open Floor:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• None requested in advance of this meeting</li> </ul>

### A. RTPO Report – August 2019

- Reports attached for October 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.
- 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. The old EDA building has been abated and demolished, and a new building will commence construction by the end of this month.
  - CMGC2-2 SP130 Veterans Blvd. – Design is complete. Have held stakeholder meetings with schools, service providers and the ACL Hospital to inform them of the construction schedule and traffic control plan. Construction is now complete with a ribbon cutting ceremony anticipated for November 19.
  - CMGC2- 3 Baseball Fields – Design is complete; waiting on prairie dog removal before Notice to Proceed is approved and issued – now anticipated to delay construction until 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; anticipate completion by September, 2019; 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; a supporting resolution of local sponsorship will be undertaken in the Oct. 25 Tribal Council.
- Capital Outlay: The Pueblo signed and returned all IGA's to NM Indian Affairs Dept. Waiting on release of funding to commence the work; the Pueblo will obligate it's 5% by the end of October.
- BIA: The USDOT announced a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking to establish a Tribal Transportation Self-governance Program; the Pueblo will read, review and provide comments. The Pueblo will send representatives to the first consultation meeting in Albuquerque scheduled for October 21.

### 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 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.
- 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 graveling before this Winter sets in.

- The County will contract out their LGTPF project for Manuelito Canyon bridge replacement and road improvements.
  - Ongoing roads stabilization in the McGaffey areas – the Milk Ranch Trail head is almost complete.
  - Jeff has a new cell phone and members / staff can contact him at 505-879-1159.
4. Gallup:
- NMDOT presented the final Gallup Transportation Safety Plan to the City Council on August 13; where it was approved and authorized for implementation.
  - The East Nizhoni Blvd. Reconstruction project was awarded LGTPF funding – the contract with NMDOT was approved at the City Council meeting last week.
  - NM118 watershed study – awaiting close out with NMDOT
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.
  - 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 will begin reimbursement process.
  - Assisting with RN Community Dev. Dept. for the Navajo Nation Rural Addressing Project.
  - RNDOT Office Manager attended the Annual NM Infrastructure Finance Conference.
  - Staff attended the Tribal Leadership Meeting / Rural Transportation Summit – 10/16-18 in Tucson, AZ.
  - 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: temporary alt. rep. present with no report – previous report as follows:
- ZMTP RTP trail project is funded for FFY2019 construction – may have to wait until Spring of 2020.
  - CR-18B and CR1 road / bridge projects are current priorities. CR-18B awarded LGTPF funding.
  - Still catching up on last year's funded projects with reduced staff, along with past weather delays.
  - 60% encumbered on Capital Outlay projects.
  - 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.
  - 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 RTPPO 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 Pague 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, Gadihii, 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
  - Gadihii-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.

#### 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 final RSA report for the 2nd and 3rd Street rail crossings for Gallup is complete. District 6, Planning, and Stakeholders have an electronic copy of the Final RSA.
- Gallup Transportation Safety Plan was approved and adopted by the City Council at their August 13 meeting. NMDOT priorities/study efforts are:
  - I-40 at US-491 (Phase A/B) in approx. FFY 2020.
  - NM-118/Route 66 Corridor (Phase A/B) in approx. FFY 2021.
  - I-40 Pedestrian Deterrent (RSA) in two years.
- The Road Safety Audit funded through HSIP for Naschitti, Newcomb and Sheep Springs went really well on Nov. 4-5.

**From October's Report (as a reminder):**

- Per POD, T/LPAs will need to be within the 30 day window to abide by the emergency rule. **However, as long as the T/LPA is actively working to get the signatures needed and informing their District Coordinator of the status, additional time will be allowed (December 30, 2019 is final deadline).**
- RTPOs are not responsible for Performance Measure Targets
- Recommended to have goals but not targets
  - The T/LPA Handbook Training replaces the old "Cradle to Grave" training offered by the NMDOT. The new T/LPA Handbook exclusively focuses on the Federal Aid Highway Program grant programs. Here is the link to the T/LPA Handbook:  
[https://dot.state.nm.us/content/dam/nmdot/TLPA/TLPA\\_Handbook\\_Final\\_Version\\_3-4-2019.pdf](https://dot.state.nm.us/content/dam/nmdot/TLPA/TLPA_Handbook_Final_Version_3-4-2019.pdf)  
There is a comment form on page iii of the handbook, we would like to hear from the RTPOs on how to improve the T/LPA Handbook and trainings.
- State funding training will be conducted as handbooks are updated. The Capital Outlay Handbook update is underway.
  - The Recreation Trail Program will be moved to the new Outdoor Recreation Division within the New Mexico's Economic Development Department. NMDOT will keep the RTPO and T/LPAs updated through the transition.

**2. NMDOT Tribal Liaison – Ron Shutiva:**

- Ron reported on the NM118 drainage analysis going on around and between the Iyanbito and Ft. Wingate I-40 intersections. Need follow up on NM118 drainage study – Vincent Steiner is the lead Engineer for Bohannon Huston. Ron indicated that stronger participation and response is needed from the Navajo Nation. This is retained from the August report so Navajo Nation members can pay attention / be reminded. 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 reported that TTAP is now on hold for direct trainings for the next year. None the less there will be a TTAP procurement training series December 2-5 at the Haaku Museum and Cultural Center in Acoma.
- Ron is working with LTAP for more tribal training opportunities; including GIS training.
- The Mid-region MPO is also willing to provide a variety of standard transportation development trainings for tribes around the state.
- Ron's office is now within the executive state DOT office – no longer at the Planning Division.
- Tribal Safety Summit will take place Nov. 21 – 22, 2019, at the Institute of American Indian Arts – 83 Avan Nu Po Road, Santa Fe, NM. Presently gaining statewide concerns to address from the Tribes. Major foci will include DUI, speeding and cross jurisdictional collaboration around cooperative agreements. After this summit, UNM-LTAP will assist with future Tribal Transportation Safety Summits.
- 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.
- Ron shared that Mr. Steve Lopez has retired from DOT District 5 – he will be missed!
- Ron also suggested that our Legislators and DOT Commissioners should be invited to LGTPF related meetings.

**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, Marticia Holliday:

- 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!
- Nothing further to report at this time.

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 9/30/19, 10/14, 10/21, 10/29, and 11/04/19 – emailed to members as they came out
- Govt. to Govt. Updates: Weeks of 10/04/19 and 11/04/19 – emailed to members as they came out.
- AASHTO Publications Updates: Weeks of 9/30/19 (x2), 10/14/19, 10/21/19, 10/29 and 11/04/19 – emailed as they came out.
- LGTPF Awards Public Notice: RTPO staff provided a public notice template sent to members on August 20, with another reminder on August 27 – to thank our Governor and State Legislators via newspaper or radio. **It's not too late at this point for any of us to still get a public notice appreciating our state leaders, for providing this funding opportunity!** Staff also understand that some of you may indeed have gotten out a public notice, but please send staff a copy (via email), so we can have a record of our appreciation for the northwest part of the state in which we all reside!
- 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](http://ltap.unm.edu)
- Tribal Safety Summit: November 21-22, 2019; Institute of American Indian Arts – 83 Avon Nu Po Rd., Santa Fe. Staff forwarded news for this Summit as new reports came out.
- Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) Update: emailed to members 9/30/19
- 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
- LGTPF Notice of Proposed Rule Making: emailed to members as news came out Public meeting at DOT District 6 11/20 1-3pm. **Members are encouraged to attend this meeting as it will lay out the rules for future funding.**
- TC3 (Transportation Curriculum Coordination Council) training opportunities: emailed to members as they came out
- TTAP Newsletter: emailed to Tribal members on 10/18
- LGRF Expiring Contracts: RTPO staff emailed this notification from Bill Santiago – NMDOT Dist. 6 on 10/24
- NM Fund-It Economic Development funding: potential match \$ for transportation projects – emailed 11/6/19
- ZMTP Report: progress report on Zuni Mountain rec. trails development emailed to members 11/6/19
- 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>
- National Association of Development Organizations (NADO) Impact Award: The NWNMCOG will receive an “Impact Award” from NADO at the 2019 NADO Annual Training Conference, for the ongoing development of recreational trails in the Zuni Mountains of McKinley and Cibola Counties; this is the only award to New Mexico.

**X. Next Meetings:**

- **Dec. 11:** Ramah Chapter, 434 BIA Rt. 125 off NM53 intersection, Pine Hill, NM
- **Jan. 8:** Cibola Convention Center, 515 High Street, Grants, NM
- **Feb. 12** NMDOT Dist. 6 Office – 1919 Pinon Drive, Milan, NM

**X. Adjournment**

Meeting adjourned at 2:30pm; motion: Gaylord Siow – Laguna, 2<sup>nd</sup>: Dave Deutsawe – Acoma; all in favor - none opposed. Appreciation to the Village of Milan for refreshments and lunch!

**MEETING ACTIONS:**

**RTPO Members:**

- With a broad and fair distribution of funding to most of our local governments for the LGTPF *Local Government Transportation Project Fund* Grant Opportunity; **members are requested to: a) credit and thank your jurisdiction's state legislative representatives (House & Senate) – in writing from your top leaders, b) plan and gear up to execute the projects effectively and efficiently within timelines as funding becomes available, c) issue a press release for each funded project that appreciates the state administration for the funding, and summarizes the transportation and other benefits it will provide to citizens of the surrounding region.**
- **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 Village of Milan for hospitality**