

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

Wednesday February 10, 2021
 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.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	Leonard Ludi, Ray Lucero
Pueblo of Zuni	absent
Navajo Nation	absent
Ramah Navajo	Tom Martine
City of Grants	Shannon Devine
City of Gallup	Alicia Santiago
Village of Milan	absent
Cibola County	Judy Horacek
McKinley County	Donna Fambrough
San Juan County	absent
Farmington Metropolitan Planning Organization - Ex-officio	Not in attendance

New Mexico Department of Transportation (NMDOT)	
Entity	Representative(s)
RTPO Liaison	Neala Krueger
District 5	James Mexia, Stephanie Medina
District 6	JoAnn Garcia, Bill Santiago
Tribal Liaison	Ron Shutiva
Other NMDOT Staff / Guests	Luke Smith – Central Regional Design Office

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 - 20	
Attendance – this meeting:	Member Attendance:	NMDOT Attendance:	Staff:	Guests:	Attendance % this meeting:	TOTAL:
	9	6	1	1	90%	17

(Missing 3 regular attending local government members – which is not of great concern or unusual, as most of our member govt. representatives hold high level positions with demanding schedules)

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 Dave Deutsawe 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 and RTPO Chair called for a motion, 2 nd and vote. ACTION: Alicia Santiago (Gallup) motioned and Donna Fambrough (McKinley) seconded adoption of the agenda. All in favor – motion carried.
III.	Minutes (January 13, 2021). Chairman provided time for review of minutes and there were several comments or revisions requested which staff will accommodate. ACTION: Dave Deutsawe (Pueblo of Acoma) motioned and Judy Horacek (Cibola) seconded adoption of the minutes. All in favor – motion carried.

Discussion: Corrections to 1/13/21 Minutes:

- Correction to local government project citation in the minutes to move “The Pueblo has completed L26 Rainfall Road along with two trail projects” from the Pueblo of Acoma to Pueblo of Laguna.

ACTION ITEMS:

Item #	Item	Presenter
IV.	Members approve / authorize final RTIPR (revision)	Robert Kuipers, Program Manager / Dave Deutsawe – RTPO Chair
BACKGROUND		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why? The NWRTPO undertook an RTIPR Revision this year rather than a full Call for Projects, as less funding from state or federal sources is anticipated until FFY2022. • Purpose. RTPO members must approve and authorize the RTIPR to make it official for project funding priorities for our three county region going forward. • Discussion/Finalization. RTPO members will discuss, approve, and authorize the FFY2021 RTIPR update. 		
CURRENT WORK		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None – RTIPR 2021 Revision has been completed – simply must be authorized 		
ANTICIPATED WORK		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commencing April, 2021 the NWRTPO will commence a full Call for Projects for the FFY2022 RTIPR – typically completed in February, 2022 		
ATTACHMENTS		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Updated FY2021 RTIPR 		
BUDGET IMPACT		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None 		
ACTION ITEM		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members will vote to approve and authorize the 2021 NWRTPO RTIPR Update 		

Discussion:

- It was noted that the Gallup Nizhoni Blvd. project is cited in two RTIPR sections – Roadway and Transportation Project Fund; staff will retain this project in both sections for which it qualifies for both funding sources.
- Members voted and approved / authorized the FFY2021 RTIPR revision for both the traditional / historic template, and a new template with much more detailed information going forward.

NWRTPO Member Voting Documentation
Approving & Authorizing 2021 NWRTPO RTIPR Revision

NWRTPO Member:	YES	NO	Abstain
Cibola: Judy Horacek	✓		
McKinley: Donna Fambrough	✓		
San Juan: not present			
Gallup: Alicia Santiago	✓		
Grants: Shannon Devine			✓
Milan: not present			
Northern/Eastern Navajo: not present			
Pueblo of Acoma: Dave Deutsawe, Ray Concho	✓ X2		
Pueblo of Laguna: Leonard Ludi, Ray Lucero	✓ X2		
Pueblo of Zuni: not present			
Ramah Navajo: Tom Martine	✓		

Eight (8) in favor, 1 abstention, none opposed – RTIPR Approved and Authorized

DISCUSSION / PRESENTATION ITEMS:

Item #	Item	Presenter
V.	Review & Discuss: Members to consider hosting meetings for the next annual schedule – May, 2021 – April, 2022	Dave Deutsawe, RTPO Chair and Robert Kuipers
BACKGROUND		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Why? Every year the NWRTPO posts an annual listing of meetings occurring the second Wednesday of each month rotating around our region, with each of our member governments taking turns hosting the meeting. The meeting schedule is advertised in regional newspapers and other media. Purpose. Staff are recommending that members consider hosting meetings for the upcoming annual period of May, 2021 thru April, 2022. Staff are recommending that our member governments simply replicate last years schedule for meetings, which will make the new schedule's completion much more efficient. Discussion/Finalization. Staff to discuss with RTPO members at this meeting. 		
CURRENT WORK		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RTPO members undertake generating this schedule each year, and simply replicating the previous year's schedule provides the most efficient update. 		
ANTICIPATED WORK		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Based on member recommendations, staff will develop a meeting schedule for May, FFY2021 thru April, FFY2022. 		
ATTACHMENTS		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> FFY2020 – 2021 meeting schedule 		
BUDGET IMPACT		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None 		
ACTION ITEM		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> N/A 		

Discussion:

- RTPO Members agreed to maintain the same schedule as last year for local governments to host meetings. Meetings will remain virtual for an extended period of time, until the COVID-19 pandemic subsides.

Item #	Topic	Presenter
VI.	Tribal & Local Government Handbook (TLPA) updates	Robert Kuipers
BACKGROUND		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why? The NMDOT Tribal / Local Public Agency Handbook provides guidance for MPO's and RTPO's for the regional management of transportation infrastructure and services in collaboration with the NMDOT Districts that serve the RTPO or MPO region. • Purpose. To inform NWRTPO members on recent updates to the TLPA handbook by simply providing it for their review. The TLPA informs RTPO members on the purpose and process for local and regional government collaboration with NMDOT to establish priorities for and develop related transportation infrastructure and services. • Discussion/Finalization. Members have been provided the NMDOT TLPA Handbook with 2019 – 2020 updates for their review and familiarization. 		
CURRENT WORK		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RTPO members are encouraged to familiarize with the current TLPA Handbook after 2019 – 2020 updates. 		
ANTICIPATED WORK		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The NWRTPO and RTPO members must develop transportation infrastructure and service priorities for our region based on guidance provided by the TLPA handbook, in collaboration with NMDOT Districts 5 and 6, along with central DOT regional and tribal liaisons. 		
ATTACHMENTS		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The first section of the TLPA Handbook, providing document guidance. 		
BUDGET IMPACT		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None 		
ACTION ITEM		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N/A 		

Discussion:

- No discussion from RTPO members or staff, as most of us haven't had a chance to review the minor updates to the handbook as of yet.
- Neala Krueger mentioned that the handbook applies only to federally funded projects. State or locally funded projects don't have to follow the same rules for funding, match funding, and project execution as federally funded projects must comply with.

Item #	Topic	Presenter
VII.	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: staff provided the staff hours summary and expenditure summary reports for January, 2021. RTPO Report; staff provided the January monthly report in the meeting package. 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"> <u>FHWA Planning, Environment & Realty Reports</u>: 1/14/21 and 1/20/21 <u>NMDOT Govt. to Govt. Update</u>: no reports <u>AASHTO Publications</u>: none <u>NMDOT / UNM-LTAP</u>: Provides a very robust collection of training opportunities – staff forward news to members as it comes out from this source – reference at ltap.unm.edu – Online courses notice forwarded to members as LTAP emails come in <u>Every Day Counts News</u>: 1/8/21 <u>National Park Service – Native Partnership Institute</u> to Tribal Members: 1/8/21 <u>N.M. Nonmetropolitan Consultation Survey</u>: 1/13/21 <u>State Investment in Tribal Communities Report</u>: 1/15/21 <u>FHWA Planning Environment & Realty – HEP Update</u>: 1/18/21 <u>Intelligent Transportation Systems Update</u>: 1/29/21 <u>NMDOT Supports Senate Bill 121 for \$234.6 million in transportation bonds</u>: 1/30/21 <u>TLPA Handbook 2020 Update</u>: 2/2/21 <u>Every Day Counts Value Capture Webinars</u>: 2/2/21 <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.

UP TO HERE

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

Pueblo of Acoma <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CMGC2 – 1: Construction of new office for Transportation and other Departments is underway – anticipated completion has been delayed by COVID-19. At this time building construction is 99% complete 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 – at 65% completion. CMGC2 – 4 Projects: (<i>request for proposals for this new bundle of projects was published 2/10/19</i>) The Pueblo is now doing construction to increase its water irrigation system. FEMA 4352 Large Projects All FEMA Large projects have been completed (104 projects!) - \$13 million a year ahead of time; the Pueblo is now addressing finishing the small projects and only has one to go. The Pueblo is continuing on the update to their <u>Long-Range Transportation Plan</u>; 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 March, 2021. The Pueblo is also updating their <u>Transportation Safety Plan</u>
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at this time. Public involvement meetings are postponed due to COVID-19, which will delay completion dates for these plans; **however, thru distributing a survey at the local Food Pantry, the Pueblo has achieved a 41% response rate from the public for both transportation plans!**

- FEMA 4352: Small Projects: Recovery work has begun; the POA Public Works / Utility Authority was awarded the small projects (65) at \$2.2 million capital investment. 45 projects have been completed; 22 projects remain. 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.
- **Arrowhead Drive is in design for new construction.**
- 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

- **No new news as of this meeting – just ongoing maintenance**
- 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. **Transit service is temporarily unavailable, until the Pueblo determines COVID-19 concerns have been adequately addressed.**

McKinley County

- **The County has completed their funded projects for 2019 and has only one project to complete funded for 2020.**
- **Pending projects for the County include CR-19 and Deer Springs Road, along with Woodview Road in Prewitt to spend down FFY 2020 funds.**

- 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 Gamerco with US491, which leads to the developing Energy Logistics Park (and potential Inland Port).
- The County has finished chip sealing Pine Haven road; will use remaining funds to finish improvements on Allison road.
- Ongoing county-wide maintenance including blading, patching potholes, cleaning culverts, repairing bridges / guardrails, etc.

Gallup

- **Gallup Mainstreet Project** – Ground breaking May 13; construction commenced July 1. Coal Avenue Commons both MAP and Legislative Agreements have been executed by the State. The City is working with Wilson & Co. and NMDOT District 6 on the final PS&E. City Council approved Wilson & Co.'s professional engineering proposal for construction management. The Mainstreet grant resolution was approved by City Council for this project. **Between MAP, State Legislative, Economic and City funding the Coal Avenue Commons project is now 45% complete and ongoing.**
- Nizhoni and W. Aztec improvements are currently in design phase.
- 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. **This project is now in ongoing construction**
- 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 funded projects will commence when weather allows.**

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 NWRTPO by the name of Sarah Austin, who needs more time to learn where the village is with regard to transportation priorities.

Ramah

- **Condolences to the community for the loss of Shane Lewis, who accomplished significant transportation development on behalf of the Ramah Navajo community.**
- **Ramah Navajo has filled two positions after the departure of Shane Lewis with Dorothy Claw as primary transportation developer and Tom Martine as transportation assistant – these individuals are also the primary and alternative representatives to the NWRTPO.**
- **Dorothy and Tom are acclimating with ongoing Ramah transportation projects at this time and updating the Ramah Long Range Transportation Plan, completing an annual report, and looking for training opportunities.**

- Acting executive director for Ramah Navajo Chapter's 638 Grants & Contract Programs issued a memorandum for employees to return back to work and follow CDC guidelines within each Chapter program RNDOT is back in operation and continues to maintain roadways.
- BIA Projects Update:
 - BIA 125 mp 18 – 24.6 – received approved design exception report for this project from FHWA and will move to finalize the project. BIA 125 MP 0 – 4.4 received approval from NNHPO on the updated Cultural Report document and Categorical Exclusion. Awaiting ROW documents for BIA 195 in Ramah Band Land to RN Realty Office. BIA 113 and 145 received final report and will review final documents with tribal officials
 - BIA 195: submitted ROW documents to RN Realty Office
 - 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. **Cibola County has now been cleared to be the fiscal agent for this project and will no longer need McKinley County's assistance; waiting to receive an executed grant agreement and notice to proceed. Cibola, COG and NMDOT staff had a virtual internal planning meeting on Jan. 19 at 9am with Arnold from the Forest Service to discuss updated scope of work for this project.**
- CR-18B and CR1 road / bridge projects are current priorities. CR-18B awarded LGTPF funding – LGTPF contract is complete and submitted. **CR18-B – RFP closed Friday – 12/4 and are currently reviewing applications – much appreciation to JoAnn Garcia from NMDOT District 6. Two firms responded to the RFP and the Cibola Commission will determine the award at their January 14 meeting.**
- Coop projects will begin soon.
- Ongoing County wide maintenance for County and Forest Roads.

Grants

- **No new news.**
- 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

- **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 now complete. **Desert Fox Paving is working on close out documents to be completed by March, 2021 and as-builts.**
- NM124 Rio San Jose to Roundabout bike & ped path: Design is complete. PS&E checklist is complete – project planned to be let February – March, 2021
- L26 Rainfall Road from Cubero Wash to Seama bridge M108: Construction has been completed, including a bike & ped. trail. **Final audits in progress and project is in close-out.**
- M137 bridge at Laguna Subdivision: Construction complete and project in close out with BIA.
- Mill, Overlay, Striping & Enhancement Projects: Construction is complete for L503 – Veterans Memorial Road, L200 Postal Road and L245 Raindrop Road. **The Pueblo is developing the next phase on four BIA routes: LGRF/BIA Road Maintenance Striping Projects – phase 2 & 3: Phase 2 – L500 Mountain Ash Loop and L500 Central Park Road; Phase 3 – L540 Veterans Memorial Road and L200 Elizabeth Bender Road. Projects at 90% design, construction anticipated in March.**
- LGRF / BIA Road Maintenance Mill, Overlay & Striping Projects: Phase 2 & 3: Phase 2 – the Pueblo is working on the next phase for four BIA routes: phase 2 for L500 Mountain Ash Loop and Central Park roads. Phase 3 for L540 – Veterans Memorial Road and L200 Elizabeth Bender Road. **Contract amendments submitted and received..**
- 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 at 60% design, and Ph-2 Conc Box Underpass at 30% design.** Construction funded for \$1.9 million from the LGTPF fund!
- L26 Deer Dancer Road: at 95% design, working on ROW amendments and E.A. **ROW and design modifications are underway.**
- L243 Acorn Road design: completed 100% design and PS&E review from the BIA. Construction pending funding.
- M154 Paguete Wash Bridge: **PER is complete** – draft report has been submitted to the Pueblo and BIA.
- M108 San Jose River Bridge-Seama: **PS&E, EA, FONSI and NOI are in progress. Bridge is now at 100% design.**
- L248 Bluejay Road and L248 Blue Star Loop: **Design is in progress now at 90%.** PER is expected by end of January 2021.
- Pueblo's Safety Plan: **Phase 1 is complete and the Pueblo is intending to apply for upcoming FY Safety Planning Funds.**
- NMDOT I-40 Safety Project: The Pueblo met with NMDOT on March 3. **Design is at 100%; NMDOT hopes to let the project the summer of 2021.**
- The Pueblo has completed L26 Rainfall Road along with two trail projects.

Navajo Nation – Northern Agency

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- 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 continues development for their Long Range Transportation Plan for 2021**
- **Navajo DOT has appointed Marco Sells to fill an administrative position for Eastern Navajo finally bringing Larry Joe some relief! Marco will have his hands full, as he is also the Chinle, AZ Transportation Planner.**
- **Karen Bedonie has been re-assigned and Larry anticipates a new Planning Director**
- NDOT is working with Sandoval County on inventory to transfer County Roads to the Navajo Nation going forward.

- Shiprock High School Safety corridor project is earmarked for **2023 NMDOT STIP** for three 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 project has been completed.**
- **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

- **Marco Sells the new manager for Eastern Navajo indicated that a Virtual Navajo Nation Transportation Summit is in development to be announced sometime in the near future.**
- Rock Springs Chapter- CR-9 road improvement. Will be added to RTIP for future road improvement
- Nahodishgish Chapter- N53 & 98 road improvement. Will be added to RTIP for road improvement.
- Manuelito Chapter- Sunset Valley road Chip Sealing. Will be added to RTIP
- Manuelito Chapter- Tse De Tah Spring road improvement Chip Sealing. Will be added to RTIP
- Rock Springs Chapter- Chee Dodge Elementary School Access Improvement – Improving turning lanes and street lighting. Will be added to RTIP.
- Church Rock Chapter- NM Highway 118 Improve – Street lighting for safety corridor. Project will be completed with NM Capital Out funds.
- Crownpoint Chapter- street lighting project in progress to complete soon.
- Baahaali Chapter- transfer access road improvement- Project completed.
- 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 in 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
(significant news only)**

RTPO Liaison (Neala Krueger)
Tribal Liaison (Ron Shutiva)
District 5 (James Mexia, Stephanie Medina)
District 6 (JoAnn Garcia; Bill Santiago)

Multimodal Planning & Programs Bureau – Neala Krueger

- Nonmetropolitan Consultation Survey closed on Tuesday, January 19 – with appreciation for a strong regional response from the NWRTPO members. **Now in final consultation process.**

- **An RSA for the area around the I-40 / US491 intersection and west of this intersection in Gallup RSA is in progress. Numerous pedestrian injuries and fatalities have occurred in recent years. A virtual stakeholder meeting was held on January 28, 2021.**
- **Keep an eye on Senate Bill 20 – Local Govt. Transportation Fund; SB20 is the legislation that would redirect a portion of the gas tax to the Transportation Project Fund.**
- **May 2021 TAP/RTP/CMAQ call for projects is coming.**
- **2021 NM Legislative Session opens on Tuesday, January 19 and ends on March 20.**
- **The NMDOT Long Range Transportation Plan website/portal is available at <https://newmexico2045plan.com/> . This project is still in progress and will be for some time yet.**
- The New Mexico LTAP center provides technical assistance and trainings to support workforce development with the aim of helping local governments and municipalities across New Mexico meet their transportation needs.
<https://ltap.unm.edu/>
- The US491 RSA is now complete with potential for HSIP funding in FFY 2022. This RSA comprised Naschitti, Newcomb, and Sheep Springs Chapters. District 6 is responsible for applying for HSIP funding.

NMDOT Tribal Liaison – Ron Shutiva

- Ron is working on updating Tribal contact lists based on recent election related changes at this time – anything that RTPO members can do to help facilitate this will expediate completing these updates. **Ron indicated that the tribal list is now complete.**
- **The Navajo Nation is having issues with development of and industrial park along the NM118 corridor between Rehoboth and Churchrock. The Navajo Economic Development Dept. is now working with NMDOT Dist. 6 toward an industrial park on NM118 between Rehoboth and Churchrock.**
- **Ron is now on the LTAP Board.**
- **The NM Capital Projects cycle has just been completed for new project submissions.**
- **Reminding members to keep on top of deadlines for ICIP, TIF, and LGRF (March 8 deadline).**
- **There will be a February 24 virtual session for the NM566 bridge rehabilitation in Church Rock -pre-registration is required.**
- NMDOT is preparing for the upcoming N.M. Legislative session.
- Ron anticipates that a new N.M. Transportation Project Fund at around \$40 million may be forthcoming; so NWRTPO members are encouraged to start prepping and gearing up – as this fund has no functional classification limitations! Ron recommends that our RTPO governments advocate for continuation of this state funding.
- A national broadband project is establishing a broadband corridor along I-40, and will involve tribal discussion with Pueblos of Laguna and Acoma and Navajo Nation.
- NMDOT needs an update from Pueblo of Laguna for progress on Rainfall Road from the Local Govt. Road Fund.
- NM118 drainage analysis project is finally in progress as the Navajo Council is working on agreements with the local governments in the region of the study between Churchrock and Iyanbito; **need coordination with NDOT.**
- Ron indicated that the Laguna I-40 improvement project is moving forward from Exit 112 to 117.
- Ron is concerned about improvements needed for the US64 Shiprock School Zone corridor – NDOT is non-responsive, and support and input is needed from NDOT before the state moves forward with safety improvements.
- I-40 Safety projects are coming to the Laguna Acoma area, including the exit 114 bridge.
- The Pueblo Cultural Center in Albuquerque has a “Pueblo Relief Fund” available, and around \$300K has already been distributed. Go to [PuebloReliefFund.org](https://pueblorelief.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 is working with area Chapters for improvements on the US491 corridor from Shiprock to Colorado border.

NMDOT District 5 – James Mexia, Stephanie Medina

- **James and Stephanie reiterated the March 15 deadline for LGRF projects that JoAnn from Dist. 6 mentioned.**
- 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

- **Local Govt. Road Fund Letter of Interest is due to NMDOT by March 15 – the sooner the better.**
- JoAnn Garcia reminded members to check up on their Capital Outlay projects and update them in the CPMS (Capital Project Monitoring 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 March 10, 2021 – virtual meeting dial in: 515-606-5166 / access code: 301965**

ADJOURNMENT (11:30 am) *Judy Horacek* – (Cibola County) moved and *Alicia Santiago* (City of Gallup) 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. The NWRTPO anticipates that for at least until the summer of 2021, meetings will remain virtual.
- **Staff appreciate a strong response from our NWRTPO members for the NMDOT Non-metropolitan survey!**

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.**