

NWRTPO | Northwest Regional Transportation Planning Organization

Joint Policy & Technical Committee

NWRTPO Meeting Minutes

Wednesday March 11, 2020

10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

NMDOT District 6 Auditorium

1919 Pinon Drive

Milan, N.M.

ATTENDANCE:

Local & Tribal Governments:

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

Technical Agencies:

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

NWRTPO Administration:

Northwest Regional Planning Organization: **Robert Kuipers**

Guests:

- Andre Giron & Amanda Cox – Village of Reserve, Mario Juarez-Infante – Wilson & Co., Channing Hofman – MRCOG / MR-RTPO, Rebecca Price & David Starr – High Five Construction, Evan Williams - NMNMCOG

TOTAL ATTENDANCE:

6 Members, 2 alternate members, 6 NMDOT, 1 RTPO Staff,
7 guests – TOTAL: 22

- I. **Call to Order and Introductions:**.....Robert Kuipers – COG RTPPO staff
- Robert Kuipers called the meeting to order at 10:15 am, welcomed those in attendance, and proceeded with introductions and approval of agenda and minutes. The meeting was hosted by Cibola County, with special thanks for coffee, snacks and lunch provided.
- II. **Review & Approval of Agenda:**..... Robert Kuipers – COG RTPPO staff
- Motion to Approve: Larry Joe - Navajo; 2nd Shane Lewis – Ramah Navajo; all in favor none opposed
- III. **Approval and Review of Minutes for 1/8/20 meeting:**..... Robert Kuipers – COG RTPPO staff
- Motion to Approve: Ray Lucero - Laguna; 2nd Royce Gchachu - Zuni, all in favor, none opposed.

ACTION ITEMS:

- IV. **New NWRTPPO Chair**.....Robert Kuipers

BACKGROUND

- **Why?** The NWRTPPO is established with representatives for participating local, tribal, and county governments within the San Juan, McKinley and Cibola County region. These representatives work thru the NWRTPPO to acquire and secure funding for transportation infrastructure and service projects and collaborate to prioritize project development that benefits local and regional populations. The NWRTPPO relies on the leadership of a Chair and Vice-chair, who work with staff to assure productive monthly meetings that execute required RTPPO deliverables and services within timelines, and seek to move our region into the future engaging new technologies, future trends, and regional collaboration to build and maintain transportation infrastructure and services which position our region for the future.
- **Purpose.** The NWRTPPO has a process for member appointment and authorization by their respective local governments as representatives transition from time to time. With the departure of Jeff Irving from McKinley County, the NWRTPPO will elect a new Chair from any members interested in taking this position, which beyond each local government, also considers and develops transportation infrastructure or services on behalf of the three county region to maintain mobility and quality of life.
- **Discussion/Finalization.** Members will discuss and either elect today, or at our April 8 meeting.

CURRENT WORK

- Discussion on a new Chair and nominations for those interested.

ANTICIPATED WORK

- Election by vote either at today's meeting or at our April 8 meeting.

ATTACHMENTS

- Two excerpts from the NWRTPPO bylaws which outline governance and the role of officers for the NWRTPPO.

BUDGET IMPACT

- None.

ACTION ITEM

- Not listed for action today, primarily a discussion item – which can be acted upon today or at our next meeting.

Discussion: Staff presented the opportunity for any member to step up to the Chair position for the NWRTPPO; reminded that the RTPPO Chair should make most of the meetings (ie at least 10 out of 12) as an RTPPO leader. Members chose to think on this and take action at our next meeting for electing a new Chair for the NWRTPPO.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

V. FFY2020 – 2021 NWRTPO Meeting Schedule.....Robert Kuipers

BACKGROUND
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Why? On an annual basis, the NWRTPO provides an annual schedule of meeting dates, times and locations to our region’s media – especially area newspapers, to encourage public awareness and participation.• Purpose. Maintain public awareness and access to the monthly meetings of the NWRTPO, who’s local government representatives collaborate with the N.M. DOT, to prioritize projects for regional transportation infrastructure and services, and monitor / report progress on local / regional funding and development on a monthly basis.• Discussion/Finalization. RTPO members will briefly discuss the annual schedule, and confirm their meeting date and location by or at least one week before our April 8, 2020 meeting.

CURRENT WORK
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Discuss and agree on meeting date assignments

ANTICIPATED WORK
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Confirm meeting host dates and locations with local leaders, and report to the RTPO staff.

ATTACHMENTS
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• FFY2019 – 2020 meeting schedule

BUDGET IMPACT
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• None.

ACTION ITEM
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No policy action, but members will confirm their respective meeting dates / locations and report back to RTPO staff by our April 10 meeting.

Discussion: Members agreed to keep the schedule the same for the upcoming year (May 2020 – April 2021); the only change would involve Eastern Navajo hosting this year, as Northern Navajo hosted in the past cycle.

VI. LGTPF Project Prioritization:.....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 and 14 local projects were funded in the NWRTPO region representing a 12.8 million dollar investment into transportation infrastructure priorities across our 3 County region

CURRENT WORK

- RTPO member governments are moving toward implementing LGTPF projects funded in FFY2019 as soon as their contract agreements are approved by NMDOT to proceed with scopes of work outlined within the agreements for government or sub-contractor reimbursable expenses. In most cases each funded member government will have about a 4 year period to complete the work.

ANTICIPATED WORK

- RTPO member governments who have been awarded FFY2019 funding based on NMDOT Transportation Commission project selection and approval have around four years to complete their projects.
- RTPO member governments going forward will have to prioritize LGTPF projects across all participating jurisdictions represented in the RTIPR, so that state LGTPF funding will initially support project development of highest local and regional benefit and need. While the next LGTPF fund cycle is not anticipated until FFY2021, the NWRTPO will consider new LGTPF projects from our member governments to be prioritized along with current unfunded projects as we update our RTIPR during the course of FFY2020 thru FFY2021. This will maintain a list of local project priorities that are ready any time funding is released, based on up to date and accurate estimates of the required scope of work, supplies, sub-contractors, regulations to navigate, and anticipated costs and timelines for phases.
- Review and maintain copies of LGTPF Project Prioritization Criteria to help guide application for and implementation of future projects in a manner that meets a common base of state criteria expectations agreed to by RTPOs and MPOs for LGTPF project development. This would set a common competitive base of required standards for project development that depending on the corridor or infrastructure would meet local, state, and federal regulatory requirements or expectations for safety, durability, multi-modal access and public utility (etc.) as a qualifying basis for inclusion and ranking in the RTIPR.

ATTACHMENTS

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Projects and Funding awarded from FFY2019• LGTPF Project Feasibility Form (PFF)• February 21 LGTPF Project Prioritization Criteria mtng. notes | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Draft Summary of Project Prioritization Criteria standards emerging from Feb.21 meeting to provide a statewide competitive base for ranking projects for funding |
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BUDGET IMPACT

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

ACTION ITEM

- No action required; future attention to this common standard for project development can benefit competitiveness for funding.

Discussion: According to DOT staff there will likely be no funding available until 2022. There was discussion on whether there should be a separate RTIPR for LGTPF funding; staff prefer to keep the LGTPF funding in the current RTIPR with a simple indication that it comes from state funding – not federal funding.

VII. NWRTPO Overview:

BACKGROUND
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Why? Staff periodically update RTPO members (related to representative turn-over) on the purpose and functions of the NWRTPO for equitably pursuing and distributing funding for transportation infrastructure and services, along with a formal process for regional collaboration between local governments and NMDOT for transportation maintenance and development – planned and developed based on local and regional priorities.• Purpose. The RTPO's fill a critical need for regional collaboration with NMDOT for the development and maintenance of transportation infrastructure and services. In an economic environment that has limited resources for rural / small town America, the NWRTPO helps our region's 3 Counties, 4 tribes, and participating communities, maximize the value of funding and resources for transportation development, based on local and regional priorities.• Discussion/Finalization. RTPO members will be provided a better understanding of how the NWRTPO enables local governments to collaborate with the NMDOT, to engage funding and resources for transportation development for rural areas with limited resources, keeping their projects on time and on target for state and federal funding requirements.
CURRENT WORK
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Discussion with RTPO members on the role and function of the NWRTPO to enable collaboration between municipal, tribal and county governments and the NMDOT, for the development and maintenance of transportation infrastructure that best serves regional and local priorities.
ANTICIPATED WORK
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• RTPO members will retain a better understanding of the role of the RTPO, to maximize the benefits and resources for equitable, prioritized transportation development on behalf of rural and small town regions, often operating with limited resources.
ATTACHMENTS
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Open Meetings Act, Public Participation Plan, Title VI Plan, NWRTPO Bylaws, FFY2019-2020 Regional Work Program, FFY2020 Call for Projects (guidance for updating RTIPR), and Functional Classification guidance.
BUDGET IMPACT
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• None.
ACTION ITEM
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• N/A.

Discussion: Mr. Kuipers provided a quick summary of each governing document serving the purpose and function of the RTPO to help coordinate the development and maintenance of transportation infrastructure and services on behalf of the public in an equitable manner, which fairly distributes funding across all participating municipal, county and tribal governments in the NWNM (Cibola, San Juan, McKinley) region, based on local and regional priorities.

VIII. Reports, Updates & Announcements:

BACKGROUND
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Why? Update RTPO members on news, training, funding, and other items of special interest• Purpose. Keep RTPO members up to date on critical information from NWRTPO and NMDOT sources

Informational Items
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: vacant at this time
News, Training & Funding Opportunities: <ul style="list-style-type: 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• Upcoming LTAP Training Opportunities emailed to members 2/6; 2020 Tran-SET Conf. April 2-3, Albuquerque.• <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• <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. https://www.transportation.gov/briefing-room/fhwa1519• <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.• <u>Local Govt. Road Fund</u>: March 15 application deadline• <u>T-3 Webinars & I.T.S. Updates</u>: emailed to members as they came out – 2/6, 2/13, 2/20, 3/8• <u>USDOT 2020 BUILD Grant</u>: funding for large / expensive projects – emailed to members 2/20• <u>NMDOT Annual Hardship Sale</u>: emailed to members 2/20• <u>Navajo DOT Transportation Symposium</u>: March 31 – April 2, San Juan College

A. RTPO Reports:

- Reports attached for February RTPO report along with RWP Status Report.
- FHWA Planning, Environment and Realty Reports, NMDOT Planning Govt. to Govt. Reports, and AASHTO Publication Updates are regularly forwarded to members as they come out.

B. Local Member Reports & Updates:

1. Pueblo of Acoma:
 - CMGC – 4 Projects: (*request for proposals for this new bundle of projects was published 2/10/19*)
 - CMGC2-1 Transportation Office Complex – Design is complete. Construction for the new building has commenced.
 - CMGC2-2 SP130 Veterans Blvd. – Project is complete.
 - CMGC2- 3 Baseball Fields – Design is complete; waiting on prairie dog removal before Notice to Proceed is approved and issued – construction will commence in the Spring of 2020.
 - CMGC2-4 FEMA 4352 Large Projects (39) – 14 projects have been completed; work began in the southern regions of the Pueblo. All projects to be completed by June, 2020.
 - The Pueblo is continuing on the update to their Long-Range Transportation Plan; WH Pacific will do traffic analysis counts to contribute to the Pueblo’s LRTP. The Pueblo is also updating their Transportation Safety Plan at this time.

- FEMA 4352: Small Projects: Recovery work has begun; the POA Public Works / Utility Authority was awarded the small projects (64) at \$2.2 million capital investment. 35 projects have been completed; 70 projects remain – anticipating completion by March, 2020.
- LGRF: The Pueblo has received its fully executed Cooperative Agreement.
- LGTPF: The Pueblo received its cooperative agreements on Oct. 8 for the Veterans Blvd. project; the Pueblo is waiting for confirmation of funding from the DOT District 6.
- Capital Outlay: The Pueblo is ready for the 30 day session with it's priority projects.
- Mainstreet Project: The Pueblo will add several projects to the CMGC suite to include performas for housing and economic development. These would include engineering studies, NEPA, infrastructure development and engineers estimates, and renderings for each area.

2. Pueblo of Zuni:

- Royce is now also the Airport Manager. Receipt of FAA grant agreement for developing an Airport Master Plan for the Andrew Othole Memorial (AOM) Airport. The master plan will be developed by the Pueblo's airport consultant – Armstrong Consultant's, Inc.
- The Pueblo continues to update its long-range transportation plan.
- The Pueblo is providing base course around the Zuni Headstart facility for parking.
- Ongoing road maintenance around the Pueblo.
- The Pueblo is working with Ashiwi Transit and Gallup Express to extend transit service to the Ramah Navajo area.
- The Pueblo has engaged contractual on call engineering services for future transportation development.
- **The Ashiwi transit system received a national award at the 2019 National RTAP (*Rural Transportation Assistance Program*) conference.**

3. McKinley County:

- The County is finishing their Local Govt. Road Fund projects including the Thoreau Town Site project for cold mix overlay, for which the County has rented a milling machine. Certifications are complete for all LGRF projects and the County is requesting an extension till Spring – 2020 to complete maintenance construction which will include paving for CR-1 in Mentmore.
- 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 Gamarco with US491, which leads to the developing Energy Logistics Park (and potential Inland Port).

4. Gallup:

- Coal Avenue Commons both MAP and Legislative Agreements have been executed by the State. The City is working with Wilson & Co. and NMDOT Dist. 6 on the final PS&E. City Council approved Wilson & Co.'s professional engineering proposal for construction management. The Mainstreet grant resolution was approved by City Council for this project. Project is ongoing at this time.
- 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.
- COOP and Legislative agreement funding for the Veterans Cemetery access road are now closed out with completion of this project.

5. Milan:

- Coop funded project for drainage behind Allsup's – 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.
- Preparing submittals for 2021 LGRF cycle.
- NMDOT LGRF received some certifications and will coordinate with Utility providers.
- ADA Compliance Study received reimbursement from TAP.
- Assisting with RN Community Dev. Dept. 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.

7. Cibola County:

- ZMTP RTP trail project is funded for FFY2020 construction – working with McKinley County for trails development beginning with the Quartz Hill Trail Head.
- 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.

8. Grants:

- Riverwalk trail: Design at 100% from WHPacific, Project is on hold for the time being.
- 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 for construction this summer.
- 2nd Street – **construction is now complete.**
- Washington bridge replacement over 2nd Street thru LGTPF funding will include a walking opportunity for High School students – construction anticipated for this summer.
- 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 RTP 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: Notice to proceed was issued to Sierra Valley Construction; construction now in progress at 75% complete – will include 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 Pagate 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.

10. Northern Navajo:

- NMDOT Safety Projects:
 - Shiprock Chapter/Navajo DOT in coordination with NMDOT are working on a school zone 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.
- San Juan – Hogback Bridge have completed feasibility studies for a new bridge.

- Shiprock Chapter is seeking a road safety audit for US491 mp. 89 – 90
- Burnham Chapter is seeking a road safety audit and N-5 / Chapter intersection improvement
- Newcomb Chapter is seeking funding for street lights along the US491 and N5001 intersection
- Sanostee Chapter is seeking funding to construct drainage infrastructure for the intersection of US491 and N-34, as well as a school zone RSA on N34
- Local Govt. Road Fund awards to Navajo Chapter Projects as follows:
 - Sheep Springs Chapter awarded \$50K for improvements to N5002
 - Gadihahii-Tokoi Chapter awarded \$200K for chip-seal improvements to N571
 - Preliminary planning in progress for a number of school bus routes around Little Water Chapter awarded \$60K for improvements – including TR4925, TR5313, N5016, N5005, and N5092.

11. Eastern Navajo:

- Bread Springs (Baahaali) Chapter awarded LGTPF funding at \$281.5 K to construct their waste transfer station access road.
- Twin Lakes, Tohatchi and Mexican Springs Chapters were awarded LGTPF funding for Road Safety Audits on US491 intersections serving these chapters.
- McKinley County has an MOU in place with the Navajo Nation (who contribute \$400,000 annually to the county for maintenance of primary Navajo Chapter roads.
- Ongoing attention from Eastern Navajo for the NM118 corridor between Rehoboth and Church Rock, around both traffic safety, road capacity expansion, economic development opportunities, and multi-modal safety options. Also a watershed study has been conducted for the NM118 corridor between Church Rock and Iyanbito to address and mitigate periodic and costly flooding of I-40 and NM118, leaving up to a foot or more of sediment on the roads, for which the DOT has to take emergency fix measures to clear these roads as quickly as possible. Wilson & Co. is working with NDOT to design roadway lighting along this corridor, and Navajo Gaming Enterprise and Church Rock Chapter have secured capital outlay funding on behalf of this lighting project
- Rock Springs Chapter has been awarded capital outlay funding to design improvements to the Chee Dodge School access road and intersection safety improvements.
- Navajo DOT looking at another Transportation Symposium coming up March 31 thru April 2, 2020 at the Farmington Convention Center; the Tribe is looking for trainers from the New Mexico side, with focus on best practices and safety. **This conference has now been cancelled.**
- Navajo DOT is also considering providing quarterly TTAP trainings at the NDOT facility in Tse Bonito.
- NDOT is having meetings with Eastern Navajo Chapter areas for transportation needs
 - Crownpoint Chapter is seeking funding for NM371 and N-9 intersection improvements
 - Standing Rock Chapter is seeking funding for an RSA on N-9
 - White Rock Chapter is seeking funding for an RSA on NM371
 - Smith Lake Chapter is seeking funding for an RSA and street lighting for the NM371 and N49 intersection
- NDOT is updating their agreements with Counties in NM, AZ and Utah at this time.
- NDOT completed a safety plan for the Arizona Counties side of the Navajo Nation – hope to do the same on the N.M. side for Northern Navajo, Eastern Navajo, and the New Mexico side of Ft. Defiance Agency.

C) State DOT Reports:

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

- The Road Safety Audit funded through HSIP for Naschitti, Newcomb and Sheep Springs went really well on Nov. 4-5; the final report is anticipated to be forthcoming sometime this month.
- The NMDOT Long Range Transportation Plan update will provide a website to report on four meetings to be held across the state. These public meetings are anticipated to commence in April.
- Paul Sittig has developed statewide transportation data that may be useful to RTPO's
- NMDOT will be considering functional classification updates statewide in the near future.
- N.M. Safe Routes to School State Summit will take place April 17, 10am to 3pm at the Bicycle Safety Education Center – 5600 Esperanza Drive N.W. in Albuquerque; RSVP by 4/3 to acurry@lcp.net
- NM Pedestrian Safety Action Plan: NMDOT Planning Bureau is undertaking a Pedestrian Safety Action Plan. A public survey and input map is available at: <https://nmpedplan.altaplanning.cloud/#/>
- Whether or not the Recreational Trails program will be managed by the N.M. Econ. Dev. Dept. is on hold for the time being, as state officials consider which dept. (Transportation or Econ. Dev.) should take the lead.

2. NMDOT Tribal Liaison – Ron Shutiva:

- Ron has sent out statewide Tribal Contacts for 2020 and put them on the DOT website.
- Ron now has an office in Albuquerque along with an office in Santa Fe.
- I-40 Safety projects are coming to the Laguna Acoma area.
- Many tribes benefited from the recent LGTPF funding opportunity.
- A “Navajo Reconciliation Meeting” is coming March 27 at the Fire Rock Casino.
- Tribal Review for the N.M. Wildlife Corridor Action Plan will take place March 27 at the Santa Ana Wellness Center.
- 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!

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

- WHPacific is being contracted for a study on needed road and intersection improvements on US 64 – MP 0 – 20 (which includes the Shiprock School Zone). This project will be divided into two phases funded separately and in the Dist. 5 HSIP plan for 2021 including a) primary / major Chapter or community intersections from Shiprock to the Arizona border and b) the Shiprock School Zone.
- The NM371 and N36 intersection near Northern Edge Casino is at 60% design; need ROW clearance / easement from NDOT.
- The District is looking at the need to replace the aging Shiprock San Juan River bridge.

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

- For Local Govt. Road Fund projects – the District needs certifications for all projects – many RTPO members are not following LGRF guidance for project development and are trying to close out projects without having reported progress to the DOT or following what the program requires – this could jeopardize funding, and DOT Dist. 6 urges follow up with their staff (!!!!) Have contractors apply to be on the State list as pre-qualified contractors. Using a non-state-qualified contractor could also jeopardize project funding!
- Members are encouraged to follow up with NMDOT District 6 – JoAnn Garcia regarding their LGTPF projects.

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

- Nothing to report

IX. Review Calendar & Announcements:

- FHWA Office of Planning, Environment & Realty / Human Environment Digest: Week of 2/6, 2/20, 3/5 – emailed to members as they came out
- Govt. to Govt. Updates: Week of 2/17 – emailed to members as they came out.
- AASHTO Publications Updates: Weeks of 2/13, 3/2, 3/8-(x2) – emailed as they came out.
- LTAP – 2020 Tran-SET Conference: – Albuquerque, April 2-3; staff also emailed announcement on upcoming LTAP training opportunities to RTPO members on 2/6
- LGRF Application Deadline: March 15
- USDOT T-3 Webinars and I.T.S. Updates: emailed to members 2/6, 2/13, 2/20, 3/8
- NMDOT Annual Hardship Sale: used vehicles and equipment sales to public entities; emailed to members 2/20
- USDOT 2020 BUILD Grant: funding for larger / more expensive projects – emailed to members 2/20
- TMIP Report – USDOT: emailed to members 2/20
- NADO Rural Transportation News: emailed to members 2/19
- NM Wildlife Corridors Action Plan: emailed to members 2/13
- Navajo DOT Transportation Symposium: March 31 – April 2, San Juan College, Farmington

X. Next Meetings:

- April 8: Gallup Eastside Fire-station, 3700 Churchrock Street, Gallup, NM

XI. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 12:00 pm; motion: Larry Joe – Navajo Nation, 2nd: Alicia Santiago - Gallup; all in favor - none opposed. Followed immediately with lunch – with appreciation to JoAnn Garcia and NMDOT Dist. 6!

MEETING ACTIONS:

RTPO Members:

- Gear up for the next round of LGTPF – soon to become the “Transportation Project Fund” via HB26 which specifically directs the funding to “County, Municipal and Tribal governments” rather than “Local Governments” as stated in the previous HB694 for the LGTPF fund. Gear up also for our next RTIPR update which will commence around April – May of this year.

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 NMDOT District 6 for hospitality