

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

Wednesday April 8, 2020
10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
Meeting executed via conference call
Due to COVID-19 / Corona-virus Pandemic

ATTENDANCE:

Local & Tribal Governments:

Pueblo of Acoma	Chair – Dave Deutsawe; Raymond Concho
Pueblo of Laguna	Ray Lucero
Pueblo of Zuni	Royce Gchachu ; Roxann Hughte
Navajo Nation	Eastern Navajo: Larry Joe - absent Northern Navajo: Larry Joe
Ramah Navajo	Shane Lewis , Trina Martine
Farmington MPO	Vacant at this time
City of Grants	Vice-Chair - Don Jaramillo
City of Gallup	Stan Henderson, Alicia Santiago
Village of Milan	Jack Moleres - absent
Cibola County	Judy Horacek , Gary Porter
McKinley County	Rodney Skersick , Mario Gomez
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: None

TOTAL ATTENDANCE: 7 Members, 3 alternate members, 5 NMDOT, 1 RTPO Staff,
0 guests – TOTAL: 16

- I. **Call to Order and Introductions:**.....Robert Kuipers – COG RTPO 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 conducted via conference call, due to the COVID-19 / Corona-virus pandemic.

- II. **Action Item: Review and Approve NWRTPO Bylaws**.....Robert Kuipers – COG RTPO staff

BACKGROUND
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Why? With the COVID-19 (Corona-virus) outbreak, a need for virtual meetings is now apparent, with no idea as to how long this pandemic will last.• Purpose. To honor state and national advice and warnings regarding physical distancing during this viral pandemic, by creating the option in our bylaws for virtual meetings using communicative technology.• Discussion/Finalization. RTPO members will vote to approve the NWRTPO Bylaws, with the new provision for virtual meetings that do not require members physical presence in a meeting room.

CURRENT WORK
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Members to vote for approval / authorization of the NWRTPO Bylaws going forward.

ANTICIPATED WORK
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Staff and member governments will continue to monitor the COVID-19 outbreak, and utilize the virtual meeting options as advised, and/or as deemed necessary for the safety of our members and DOT staff.

ATTACHMENTS
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Proposed NWRTPO Bylaws for FFY2020 going forward.

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

ACTION ITEM
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Members to vote yes, no or abstain for approval and authorization of NWRTPO Bylaws.

Discussion: Members unanimously approved the NWRTPO Bylaws (without motion or 2nd), with the addition for virtual meetings when needed – as conducted today related to the COVID-19 / Corona-virus Pandemic.

- III. **Review & Approval of Agenda:**..... Robert Kuipers
- Motion to Approve: Judy Horacek – Cibola County, 2nd: Alicia Santiago - Gallup; all in favor none opposed
- IV. **Approval and Review of Minutes for 3/11/20 meeting:**..... Robert Kuipers
- Motion to Approve: Don Jaramillo – Grants, 2nd: Judy Horacek – Cibola County; all in favor, none opposed.

V. Action Item: Election of Officials.....Robert Kuipers

BACKGROUND

- **Why?** The NWRTPO 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 NWRTPO to acquire and secure funding for transportation infrastructure and service projects and collaborate to prioritize project development that benefits local and regional populations. The NWRTPO relies on the leadership of a Chair and Vice-chair, who work with staff to assure productive monthly meetings that execute required RTPO 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 NWRTPO 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 NWRTPO 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

- Per the NWRTPO Bylaws due to Jeff Irving leaving the Chair position, Dave Deutsawe our present Vice-chair will move into the Chair position, and has accepted this position – at least thru the end of 2020; Don Jaramillo has expressed interest in taking on the Vice-Chair, and with no other members expressing interest, we will vote today to elect Mr. Jaramillo to the Vice-Chair position.

ANTICIPATED WORK

- Election by vote at today's meeting.

ATTACHMENTS

- Members can reference the NWRTPO Bylaws which are part of this meeting's agenda package.

BUDGET IMPACT

- None.

ACTION ITEM

- Members will vote to elect Mr. Jaramillo to the Vice Chair position, as no other members have expressed interest in assuming this position.

Discussion: Former Vice Chair – Dave Deutsawe has agreed to assume the Chair position with Jeff Irving's departure from the RTPO – as prescribed in our Bylaws; members will vote to elect a new Vice-Chair for the NWRTPO.

Members unanimously supported (without motion or 2nd) moving Mr. Deutsawe to Chair, as prescribed in our Bylaws, and unanimously supported (without motion or 2nd) Don Jaramillo for Vice-Chair.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

VI. NWRTPO Call for Projects Guide FFY2020 - 2021.....Robert Kuipers

BACKGROUND

- **Why?** Every two years (biennial basis) the NWRTPO engages a Call for Projects process to invite new projects into the NWRTPO RTIPR for our local municipal, tribal and county member governments. This process engages a series of document forms and meetings to assure that proposed new projects are both local / regional priorities, and qualify for state and federal funding.
- **Purpose.** To engage the NWRTPO members in a review of the proposed process going forward to qualify new projects for inclusion in the FFY2021 RTIPR for the NWRTPO.
- **Discussion/Finalization.** RTPO members will approve and authorize (not by vote) the NWRTPO Call for Projects related to documentation submission and meeting dates which typically should commence in May-June, 2020 and conclude with a finalized RTIPR for the NWRTPO in February, and the DOT District Office RTIP (Zipper) in March, 2021.

CURRENT WORK

- RTPO members will review the Call for Projects process, and schedule for the FFY2021 RTIPR, and approve and authorize the NWRTPO Call for Projects, perhaps with any recommended edits.

ANTICIPATED WORK

- RTPO members will approve and authorization of the FFY2020 – FFY2021 NWRTPO Call for Projects process.

ATTACHMENTS

- NWRTPO Call for Transportation Projects Guide.

BUDGET IMPACT

- None.

ACTION ITEM

- Not an action item – members will be asked to eliminate projects that have been completely funded, and can generate PFF's for any new projects.

Discussion: Members are advised to review the status of their projects and eliminate any that have been completely funded, and can provide PFF's for new projects, or the next phase of a project that has been funded for the previous phase.

NMDOT NWRTPO Liaison Neala Krueger announced that there will not be a Call for Projects for RTP, TAP, or CMAQ projects until May, 2021 – for October, 2022 implementation.

VII. Reports, Updates & Announcements:

BACKGROUND
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why? Update RTPO members on news, training, funding, and other items of special interest • Purpose. Keep RTPO members up to date on critical information from NWRTPO and NMDOT sources
Informational Items
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>FHWA Planning, Environment & Realty Reports</u>: 3/19 and 4/2 – emailed to members as reports came out • <u>NMDOT Govt. to Govt. Update</u>: 3/30 – emailed to members as these reports came out • <u>AASHTO Publications</u>: 3/20 and 3/31 – emailed to members as these reports came out • <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 • LTAP Training Opportunities on hold for public meeting places due to COVID-19, only webinars available; current offerings emailed to members 4/2; news of class training cancellations thru May to members 3/19 • <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>USDOT 2020 BUILD Grant</u>: funding for large / expensive projects – emailed to members 2/20 • <u>Federal Transit Funding Opportunities</u>: emailed to our regional Transit providers and RTPO members 4/1 • <u>FHWA Virtual Peer Exchange Workshops</u>: emailed to members 3/31 (scheduled May – Oct., 2020) • <u>2020 Census Info.</u>: emailed to members 3/31 • <u>Tran-SET Conference rescheduled for Sept. 1-2, 2020</u>: emailed to members 3/19 • <u>2020 Tribal Motor Vehicle Safety Summit</u>: May 19-21, Isleta Casino, emailed to members 3/16

A. RTPO Reports:

- No Reports this month - no new developments since February RTPO report; staff will provide RWP Status Report at our May, 2020 meeting.
- FHWA Planning, Environment and Realty Reports, NMDOT Planning Govt. to Govt. Reports, and AASHTO Publication Updates are regularly forwarded to members as they come out.

B. Local Member Reports & Updates:

1. Pueblo of Acoma:
 - Pueblo concluded project development on March 17 related to the COVID-19 pandemic; will resume project development in May, if the Pandemic subsides.
 - 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 perform 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 Gamercos 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: (not present this meeting former report follows)

- 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 and received approval to move forward and finalize project.
 - 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 and categorical exclusion.
 - BIA 195: submitted ROW documents to RN Realty Office
 - BIA 145 and BIA 113; Awaiting draft report for BIA 145; received draft report for BIA 113.
- Submitted road signs replacement maintenance project for 2021 LGRF cycle.
- NMDOT LGRF received some certifications and will coordinate with Utility providers.
- 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 \$1.8 million from 2019 state legislature for final phase from Washington to Roosevelt – anticipate construction late summer of 2020. Total project stands at \$6.2 million.
- 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 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- 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 Pagueate 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: (Northern and Eastern Navajo – not present this meeting previous reports follow)

- 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
 - Gadihii-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 Regional Work Program is due for FFY 2021 – 2022; but delays are anticipated and acceptable under the current COVID-19 pandemic conditions.
- The Road Safety Audit funded through HSIP for Naschitti, Newcomb and Sheep Springs went really well on Nov. 4-5; the final report has been issued.
- 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.
- 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 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- **New Report from James Mexia and Stephanie Medina:** D-5 staff are managing project proposals for the 2021 Local Govt. Road Fund

4. DOT District 6 – JoAnn Garcia:

- JoAnn reminded members to check up on their Capital Outlay projects in the CPM system, to make sure their projects are submitted and up to date, with the required minimal 5% match.
- For Local 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 Planning, Environment & Realty Reports: 3/19 and 4/2 – emailed to members as reports came out
- NMDOT Govt. to Govt. Update: 3/30 – emailed to members as these reports came out
- AASHTO Publications: 3/20 and 3/31 – emailed to members as these reports came out
- NMDOT / UNM-LTAP: Provides a very robust collection of training opportunities – staff forward news to members as it comes out from this source – reference at ltap.unm.edu
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- Tran-SET Conference rescheduled for Sept. 1-2, 2020: emailed to members 3/19
- 2020 Tribal Motor Vehicle Safety Summit: May 19-21, Isleta Casino, emailed to members 3/16

X. Next Meetings:

- Our May 13 and June 10 meetings will be virtual – exercised via conference call – 515-606-5166 / access code: 301965
- July 8: San Juan County Fire Ops. 209 S. Oliver, Aztec, NM – will revert to conf. call if COVID-19 restrictions persist.

XI. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 11:00 am; motion: Royce Gchachu – Pueblo of Zuni, 2nd: Dave Deutsawe – Pueblo of Acoma; all in favor - none opposed.

MEETING ACTIONS:

RTPO Members:

- Based on our new annual meeting schedule – which will exactly replicate last year’s meeting locations, with the exception of Navajo Nation – which will be a virtual meeting as a location was not confirmed. Members need to review the schedule and make sure they confirm the meeting locations that they are hosting well in advance of the meeting date. Bear in mind that if / as the COVID-19 Pandemic continues, we may have to substitute virtual meetings for any of our reserved locations.

RTPO Staff:

- 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*)
- Maintain appointment forms as members transition.

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.

This meeting was cancelled for City of Gallup to host, and conducted via conference call, due to the COVID-19 / Corona-virus Pandemic.