

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

Wednesday May 12, 2021
 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
 Virtual meeting executed via Microsoft Teams
 Due to COVID-19 Pandemic

ATTENDANCE:

Local & Tribal Governments	
Entity	Representative(s)
Pueblo of Acoma	Dave Deutsawe (Chair) Raymond Concho
Pueblo of Laguna	Elroy Keetso, Sharon Hausam
Pueblo of Zuni	Royce Gchachu, Roxanne Hughte
Navajo Nation	Larry Joe, Marco Sells, Leanne Roy
Ramah Navajo	Dorothy Claw, Tom Martine
City of Grants	Don Jaramillo, Mark Teshima
City of Gallup	Clyde Strain, Alicia Santiago
Village of Milan	Sarah Austin, Denise Baca
Cibola County	Judy Horacek, Edward Salazar
McKinley County	Rodney Skersick, Donna Fambrough
San Juan County	Absent (Nick Porell)
Farmington Metropolitan Planning Organization - Ex-officio	Not in attendance

New Mexico Department of Transportation (NMDOT)	
Entity	Representative(s)
RTPO Liaison	Neala Krueger
District 5	Stephanie Medina, James Mexia
District 6	JoAnn Garcia, Bill Santiago
Tribal Liaison	Ron Shutiva
DOT Central Regional Design Office	James Sanchez
Other NMDOT Staff / Guests	Jason Grover-NMDOT, John Lastyona & Robert Hamblen - guests

Regional Transportation Planning Organization	
Entity	Representative(s)
Northwest NM Council of Governments	Robert Kuipers, Evan Williams, Brandon Howe

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:
	11	6	3	3	100%	23

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 virtual meeting was conducted via Microsoft Teams, 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: Don Jaramillo - Grants motioned and Alicia Santiago - Gallup seconded adoption of the agenda. All in favor – motion carried.
III.	Minutes (April 14, 2021). Chairman provided time for review of minutes and there were no revisions requested. ACTION: Don Jaramillo - Grants motioned and Elroy Keetso - Laguna seconded adoption of the minutes. All in favor – motion carried.

Discussion: No discussion

ACTION ITEMS:

Item #	Item	Presenter
IV.	IV) Approve / Authorize FFY2021 – 2022 Regional Work Program and Budget	Robert Kuipers - NWRTPO

This item was cancelled as the RTPO had already approved and authorized the FFY2021-2022 Regional Work Program and Budget at a previous meeting.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Item #	Item	Presenter
V.	Developments along and Access to State & Federal Highways	Jason Grover - NMDOT
BACKGROUND		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why? It is not uncommon in New Mexico that local county, municipal and tribal governments violate right of way for state and federal highways, by locating businesses and especially driveways in a manner that violates the right of way restrictions along state and federal highways. • Purpose. To inform RTPO members on ROW restrictions along state and federal highways, so they can pass this information along to their respective leaders. • Discussion/Finalization. The NWRTPO supports this presentation because a) local governments and related businesses can be required to alter infrastructure and bear the expenses, and b) this is often a cause of accidents along these major highway corridors. 		
CURRENT WORK		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members are asked to follow up with their respective leaders on this presentation – RTPO staff have forwarded the pre-presentation guidance provided by Mr. Grover to RTPO members. 		
ANTICIPATED WORK		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members are encouraged to remain vigilant on observing and working with their respective leadership on developments along state or federal highways to ensure that the NMDOT is contacted and involved to avoid construction that violates highway right of way, along with the expense of corrective action. 		
ATTACHMENTS		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guidance provided by Mr. Grover 		
BUDGET IMPACT		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None 		

ACTION ITEM
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> N/A

Discussion:

- There are and have been problems with local governments and construction projects related to access to state and federal highways and right of way violations across the state of New Mexico.
- Proper access must be assessed, approved, and granted from state or federal agencies.
- The local business or government agency must have a DOT access permit.
- Request a brochure and flow-chart of the process for local governments if Jason can create one.

Item #	Item	Presenter
VI.	Update: Transportation Project Fund (TPF) – PFF’s due ASAP	Robert Kuipers - NWRTPO

BACKGROUND

- Why?** NMDOT is issuing a Transportation Project Fund (TPF) Call for Projects commencing April – August 2021
- Purpose.** Prepare for this project funding opportunity which requires a minimum 5% local match.
- Discussion/Finalization.** The NWRTPO will finalize a list of TPF projects at the April 14 meeting.

CURRENT WORK

- NWRTPO staff requested and gathered priority projects for TPF funds - one from each member government for inclusion in our RTIPR pending qualification.

ANTICIPATED WORK

- Members have been asked to **submit one project choice by April 7** for our April 14 meeting where RTPO staff will include projects in our RTIPR for consideration to move forward based on qualification.
- Members may choose projects not funded in the first round of LGTPF projects, or projects already listed in our current RTIPR from other federal source categories, but cannot add new projects which haven’t already been vetted by the RTPO.
- With a short application timeframe of April – August members are advised to gear up for efficient development of required documentation as NMDOT guidance is issued.
- While this state funded opportunity is less restrictive than federal funding, it remains best if Non-Tribal members have approved local Title VI and ADA Plans in place.
- Staff will forward the TPF Guidance provided from the NMDOT as soon as it becomes available.

ATTACHMENTS

- Guidance for TPF Call for Projects provided thus far

BUDGET IMPACT

- None

ACTION ITEM

- Members will vote to approve projects submitted for consideration, for inclusion in our RTIPR in Agenda Item #VIII.

New Mexico Transportation Project Fund - 2021 Applications for the NWRTPO

- Cibola County:** County Road 1 (Marquez Road) – Preliminary Engineering and Design (incl. ROW, clearances / easements) and construction for road, bridge, and drainage improvements – 4.1 miles east of CR1 intersection with NM-279 - requested amount: **\$1,250,000.**
- McKinley County:** County Road 43-A (Superman Canyon Road) – Superman Canyon IV – design and construct bridges 3, 4 and 4A on Superman Canyon Road – requested amount: **\$2,000,000**

- 3) **City of Gallup:** Coal Avenue Commons: reconstruct Coal Avenue from 1st to 2nd Street including the 2nd Street intersection and the downtown walkway – requested amount: **\$3,500,000**
 - 4) **City of Grants:** Roosevelt Avenue Bridge Replacement – to complete design and construct the replacement of Roosevelt Bridge including additional drainage improvements and below grade trail connection to Grants Arroyo Trail – requested amount: **\$2,075,000**
 - 5) **Village of Milan:** Airport Road: Street reconstruction with drainage improvements to prevent future flooding – requested amount: **\$2,750,000**
 - 7) **Northern Navajo:** US64 / Beclabito Chapter Road intersection: Intersection safety improvements to provide PER, ROW and design thru construction to add street lighting – requested amount: **\$900,000**
 - 8) **Pueblo of Acoma:** NM 124 Realignment: NM124 realignment and NM124 / US I-40 underpass to NM 117 – preliminary engineering and design (including clearances) – requested amount: **\$1,000,000**
 - 9) **Pueblo of Laguna:** L24 – Rainfall Road I-40 Concrete Box Underpass – expand the underpass for safe traffic, pedestrian and bike interface and egress – requested amount: **\$2,000,000**
 - 10) **Ramah Navajo:** BIA Rt. 145 – design and PER – requested amount: **\$575,000**; BIA Rt. 195 – reconstruction, drainage and safety improvements; requested amount: **\$895,116** / Total Request: **\$1,470,116**
- NWRTPO Total: \$16,945,116 / State Funding: \$16,097,860 / 5% local Match: \$847,256**

Discussion:

Members are requested to complete and submit TPF – Project Feasibility Forms (PFF’s) by this Friday – May 14, 2021 in order to stay on track for a short application time frame – staff have submitted abundant guidance for this funding cycle **which ends June 15!!**

Item #	Item	Presenter
VII.	Review and Discuss: Commence FFY2021-2022 Call for Projects	Robert Kuipers - NWRTPO
BACKGROUND		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why? Every two years (biennial basis) the NWRTPO engages a Call for Projects process to invite new projects into the NWRTPO RTIPR for our local municipal, tribal and county member governments. This process engages a series of document forms and meetings to assure that proposed new projects are both local / regional priorities, and qualify for state and federal funding. • Purpose. To engage the NWRTPO members in a review of the proposed process going forward to qualify new projects for inclusion in the FFY2022 RTIPR for the NWRTPO. • Discussion/Finalization. RTPO members voted at our May 14 meeting to approve and authorize the NWRTPO Call for Projects related to documentation submission and meeting dates which typically should commence in May-June, 2021 and conclude with a finalized RTIPR for the NWRTPO in February, 2022 and the DOT District Office RTIP (Zipper) in March, 2022. 		
CURRENT WORK		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RTPO members will be provided guidance for the Call for Projects process, and schedule for the FFY2022 RTIPR, along with guidance for TAP, RTP, and CMAQ projects. 		
ANTICIPATED WORK		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RTPO members will be reminded of the process and timeframes for the FFY2021 – FFY2022 NWRTPO Call for Projects, including TAP, RTP, and CMAQ projects. 		
ATTACHMENTS		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NWRTPO Call for Transportation Projects Guide, new PFF and PFF forms and TAP, RTP, and CMAQ Guidance. 		
BUDGET IMPACT		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None. 		

ACTION ITEM	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Action completed last meeting; this meeting simply reminds members of the process and timeframes based on project type requirements. 	

Discussion: Staff reminded members the TAP, RTP and CMAQ projects have a shorter application timeframe – guidance is provided in this meeting package; also the TPF call for projects has an exceptionally short timeframe which ends June 15.

Item #	Item	Presenter
VIII.	Update: Members report on Local Leader RTPO Orientations	Robert Kuipers - NWRTPPO
BACKGROUND		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Why? Every two to three years, related to elections of local municipal, county and tribal leaders the NWRTPPO provides an orientation to its function and service to our respective local governments for development and maintenance of transportation infrastructure. Purpose. To keep our regional leaders informed on the RTPO process and service for maintaining and generating new transportation infrastructure and services. Discussion/Finalization. Analyze and track local leader orientations to the NWRTPPO function and service to our respective municipal, tribal and county governments for development and maintenance of transportation infrastructure and services. 		
CURRENT WORK		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evaluate and track the provision of RTPO orientation presentations to regional local leaders. 		
ANTICIPATED WORK		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Remind RTPO members who have not yet provided the virtual orientation presentation for the NWRTPPO, to complete this in the near future for their respective government leaders, and report back to the NWRTPPO manager on completion of this task. 		
ATTACHMENTS		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NWRTPPO current Virtual Member Government Orientation to the NWRTPPO, and the Virtual Orientation Guide; along with the local leader RTPO Orientation Tracking Instrument. 		
BUDGET IMPACT		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None. 		
ACTION ITEM		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> N/A. 		

Discussion:

It was noted that virtually none of our RTPO members have conducted RTPO orientations to their respective local governments as of yet. **Staff will have to add pressure to the push to get this done, as this could be a negative audit finding for the NWRTPPO!!** Staff will take as much responsibility as our members for this, as staff haven't pushed too hard on this thus far. Staff have provided our members with a virtual orientation presentation that can be presented at City Council, County Commission, and Tribal Council meetings. Members are encouraged to provide this virtual option, but staff will immediately begin requesting direct presentations at upcoming meetings to address this issue of concern.

Item #	Topic	Presenter
IX.	RTPO Staff, Member and DOT Reports	Robert Kuipers - NWRTPO
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 April, 2021. • RTPO Report; staff provided the February 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>: no reports • <u>NMDOT Govt. to Govt. Update</u>: 4/12/21, 5/3/21 • <u>AASHTO Publications</u>: no reports • <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 • 4/13 – Outdoor Recreation Business Accelerator Grants • 4/14 – 2021 RAISE Grants NOFO • 4/16 - CMAQ, TAP, RTP Slideshow – Sky Tallman • 4/16 – Regulations for Infrastructure along State or Federal Highways – Jason Grover • 4/19 – UNM-LTAP Training Opportunities • 4/20 – Transportation Project Fund Guidance • 4/28 – Pedestrian Safety Action Plan - NMDOT • 4/29 – Transportation Project Fund Guidance • 4/29 - UNM-LTAP Courses • 4/29 – Transportation Project Fund Guidance – Tribes can use TTP funds as a match • 4/29 – National Bicycle Safety Month • 4/30 – NMDOT Pedestrian Safety Plan • 5/3 – National Bike to School Day • 5/3 – DOT Call for Projects – RTP / TAP / CMAQ • 5/3 – FTA – CRRSAA & ARP Public Transit Funding • 5/3 – Census Data Sources • 5/3 – NM Ideal Bike Network • 5/3 – US 491 / I-40 Intersection final RSA Report • 5/3 – Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (Pedestrian Safety) • 5/4 – GIS in Transportation Webinar – At Grade Rail Crossings • 5/5 – Innovator News Letter – Virtual Public Involvement • 5/5 – FHWA Local Aid Support • <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.

RTPO Staff Reports:

RTPO staff provided the staff hours and budget expenditure reports for April, and the May monthly report. Of significance in the May monthly report (primarily on April news and activities) are the following:

- The NWRTPPO is now executing a full call for projects which extends from April / May of 2021 thru March of 2022.
- **The Trail of the Ancients Scenic Byway – portions thru all three counties have now been designated as a National Scenic Byway – anticipated to have significant impacts on tourism to our region!!**
- The Navajo Nation is commencing development of 80 miles of recreational trails in the Chuska Mountains, which will complement the 200 miles of rec. trails being developed in the Zuni Mountain Range, along with Pueblo of Laguna’s development of bike / ped trails between all 7 Pueblo Villages. COG staff will continue developing recreational trails this Spring thru Fall in the Zuni Mountains, adding Cibola County trails to those already developed in McKinley County – total of 200+ miles of rec. trails!
- The NMDOT Transportation Project Fund has \$120 million available this year, so members are working hard and fast to meet the June 15 deadline for submitting complete application packages.
- Members are asked to update their appointment forms for the NWRTPPO – so far only Cibola County has responded; staff still need new member appointment forms from: **McKinley County** (Rodney Skersick Primary, Donna Fambrough – Alternate) and **Northern and Eastern Navajo** (Northern – Larry Joe Primary, Leanne Roy Alternate) Eastern – Marco Sells Primary, Leanne Roy Alternate).

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

Pueblo of Acoma

- **Road construction in general will commence again in May.**
- 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: (*request for proposals for this new bundle of projects was published 2/10/19*)
- 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 Long-Range Transportation Plan**; WH Pacific will do traffic analysis counts to contribute to the Pueblo’s LRTP. To mitigate COVID 19 delays, the Pueblo has developed a survey for public input which is also available on Survey Monkey. The completion date has now been moved to March, 2021. **The Pueblo is also updating their Transportation Safety Plan at this time.** Public involvement meetings are postponed due to COVID-19, which will delay completion dates for these plans; **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 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 bridge is now at 75% completion.**
- 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. **The County is also working on completing the ZMTP Milk Ranch Trail Head**

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 69% complete and ongoing.**
- **Nizhoni and W. Aztec improvements are currently in design phase – Nizhoni design at 60%; West Aztec is at 30% design**
- 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 in May or June.**
- **The City is submitting a Letter of Intent for Coop funding, as well as a MAP application.**
- **Federal Aviation Admin. application has been submitted for our airport taxi-way and connectors.**

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; **more focus on this road going forward.**
 - BIA 145 and BIA 113: Received draft report for BIA 145 and BIA 113. **More focus on BIA 145 going forward.**
- 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; **BIA 125 mp 0-4 and mp12 – 24.6 are now construction ready.**
- 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.
- **Ramah Navajo has submitted a BUILD Grant application.**

Cibola County

- **Cibola County has hired a new Road Superintendent by the name of Ed Salazar.**
- 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; trail development and construction is commencing. 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 which was recently awarded**. 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 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. Local Govt. Road Fund and trail projects to commence soon.**
- **NM 124 Roundabout:** The repairs to the roundabout are being coordinated by NMDOT, no start date has been determined. **NM124 Road Diet has received an extension and is in final design.**
- **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.
- **The Pueblo is undertaking a lot of striping projects right now.**
- **Working on 2021 LGRF project submission.**

Navajo Nation – Northern Agency

- **Local Govt. Road Fund projects will commence implementation soon for both Eastern and Northern Navajo.**
- 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 a new Planning Director by the name of Leanne Roy is on board for NDOT.**
- 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.*
- **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.
- **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.**
- **Lary Joe indicated that Sandoval County will be transitioning many of rural their roads to Navajo DOT oversight and ownership**
- Rock Springs Chapter- CR-9 road improvement. Will be added to RTIP for future road improvement
- Nahodishgish Chapter- N53 & 98 road improvement. Will be added to RTIP for road improvement.
- Manuelito Chapter- Sunset Valley road Chip Sealing. Will be added to RTIP
- Manuelito Chapter- Tse De Tah Spring road improvement Chip Sealing. Will be addit to RTIP
- Rock Springs Chapter- Chee Dodge Elementary School Access Improvement – Improving turning lanes and street lighting. Will be added to RTIP.
- Church Rock Chapter- NM Highway 118 Improve – Street lighting for safety corridor. Project will be completed with NM Capital Out funds.
- Crownpoint Chapter- street lighting project in progress to complete soon.
- Baahaali Chapter- transfer access road improvement- Project completed.
- Mexican Chapter- Road Safety Audit, project in progress on contracting out to complete the RSA studies. Will be added to RTIP for construction project.
- Twin Lakes Chapter- Road Safety Audit, project in progress on contracting out to complete the RSA studies. Will be added to RTIP for construction project.
- Tohatchi Chapter- Road Safety Audit, project progress on contracting out to complete the RSA studies. Will be added to RTIP for construction project.
- Iyanbito Chapter- Received Local Government Road Fund, it would need more funding to complete the road improvements. Will be added to RTIP for road improvement Chip Sealing.

- Iyanbito Chapter- I-40 -Project is seeking funding for drainage improvement and overpass studies, design and construction to provide safe entering and existing I-40. Will be added to RTIP.
- Mariano Lake Chapter- Red Willow road in progress to complete the road improvement.

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

- Smith Lake Chapter- Seeking RSA studies and street lighting at Hwy 371 & N49
- Crownpoint Chapter- Seeking RSA studies and street lighting at N9 & Hwy 371 intersection
- Becenti Chapter- Seeking RSA studies & Street lighting at Highway 371 & N9
- Coyote Canyon Chapter- Street lighting at Intersection of jphighway 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

<p>New Mexico Department of Transportation Reports <i>(significant news only)</i></p>	<p>RTPO Liaison (Neala Krueger) Tribal Liaison (Ron Shutiva) District 5 (James Mexia, Stephanie Medina) District 6 (JoAnn Garcia; Bill Santiago)</p>
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Multimodal Planning & Programs Bureau – Neala Krueger

- **An RSA for the area around the I-40 / US491 intersection and west of this intersection in Gallup RSA is now complete. Numerous pedestrian injuries and fatalities have occurred in recent years. A virtual stakeholder meeting was held on January 28, 2021.**
- **The Recreational Trails Program (RTP), Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) and Congestion Mitigation / Air Quality (CMAQ) Call for projects was issued on May 3, 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. Looks like a good chance that this will get funded in this legislative session per Clarissa & Sean Sandoval. **Appears this took place, as the TPF fund for the upcoming cycle is at \$120 million (!!)** need to complete all required application documentation by June 15 deadline.
- **The NWRTPO completed their annual Quality Assurance Review on April 28; final report due May 31.**
- **Pay attention to the May 5 Government to Government report from NMDOT.**
- **The NMDOT 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan is available at this time for public review and comments with a 45 day deadline. The NMDOT Long Range Transportation Plan website/portal is available at <https://newmexico2045plan.com/> .**
- **Keep an eye on Govt. to Govt. updates – especially the one from May 5.**
- 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 NMDOT Critical Freight Corridors plan has been approved**
- **The NMDOT Pedestrian Safety Plan is now available for review and comment until June 13.**
- **A new Functional Classification Guide update has been completed – coming on the DOT website soon.**

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.**
- **There's a new Indian Highway Safety Grant out from the BIA.**
- Reminding members to keep on top of deadlines for ICIP, TIF, and LGRF.
- **Due to Chapter turnover it might be good to consider an orientation to the NWRTPO for Navajo Chapters – including transportation funding opportunities – easiest would be at the Eastern, Northern and Ft. Defiance Agency meetings.**
- **A 30% review virtual meeting will be available on May 24 at 9:00 am for NM118 improvements – Rehoboth to Church Rock intersections.**
- **Tribal Entities – please apply for the Transportation Project Fund.**
- 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.
- 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!
- NMDOT is working with area Chapters for improvements on the US491 corridor from Shiprock to Colorado border.

NMDOT District 5 – James Mexia, Stephanie Medina

- **Stephanie reminded of the five certifications required before projects are considered construction ready.**
- 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 referencing 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.

NMDOT District 6 - JoAnn Garcia, Bill Santiago

- **Local Govt. Road Fund – as Stephanie from District 5 mentioned, the 5 certifications are also required before LGRF projects are considered construction ready.**
- **There is a June 30 deadline for MAP project submissions**
- **For the Transportation Project Fund – DOT-6 is waiting for project reports from Cibola County.**
- 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!

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

- **Transportation Project Fund – requesting DOT to provide a project status report for the FFY2018-2019 projects.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS & NEXT MEETING: No announcements – **next meeting June 9, 2021 – virtual meeting via Microsoft Teams**

ADJOURNMENT (12:00 pm) Elroy Keetso, Laguna moved and Judy Horacek, Cibola seconded for adjournment Motion carried by acclamation.

MEETING ACTIONS:

Staff

- **Orientations:** Schedule and conduct RTPO Orientations at Policy Board meetings, in order to stay in compliance with PPM
- **Website:** update all important documents page and update Meeting schedule on Meetings page
- **Program Guides:** post to website and circulate
- **Review Amendments** (especially Gallup for MAP/Coal Avenue Commons - June 30)
- **Flowchart:** develop a simple flowchart of the process described today and follow-up with Counties (EW)
- **Transportation Project Fund Internal Deadlines:** Implementation
 - Project Feasibility Form (PFF) (5/14)
 - Internal Review PFF's (5/17-21)
 - Present to NMDOT District 6 / Charles Lundstrom (5/25)
 - Prepare Application Requirements
 - Cover Letter
 - PFF
 - Resolution of Sponsorship or Supporting Letter with match verification
 - Map
 - Right of way documentation
 - Match Waiver (if applicable)
 - Applications (6/9)
 - Internal Review (6/9-11) & Corrections
 - Post to .ftp website (5/14)

MEMBERS

- **Orientations:** Assist in scheduling these either in-person or virtual at Policy Board meetings
- **Review Amendments** (especially Gallup for MAP/Coal Avenue Commons - June 30)
- **Statewide Transportation Plan** (comments due on and by June 21)
- **Apply for Transportation Project Fund applications by June 15**
 - Follow Internal Deadlines set by RTPO
 - Letter (to District Engineer)
 - Project Feasibility Form (due Friday, 5/14)

NMDOT

- Statewide Plan Presentation (June) - Neala/Jessica
- Functional Classification Guide (July) - Neala/Janeette
- District Reviews of PFF/Applications
- Status Reports on Current Transportation Project Fund (TPF) projects from 2018-2019

