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

Wednesday May 13, 2020  
10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.  
Meeting executed via conference call  
Due to COVID-19 / Corona-virus Pandemic

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**ATTENDANCE:**

**Local & Tribal Governments:**

Pueblo of Acoma	<b>Chair – Dave Deutsawe; Raymond Concho Jr.</b>
Pueblo of Laguna	<b>Ray Lucero</b>
Pueblo of Zuni	<b>Royce Gchachu</b> ; Roxann Hughte
Navajo Nation	Eastern Navajo: Larry Joe - absent Northern Navajo: Larry Joe
Ramah Navajo	<b>Shane Lewis</b> , Trina Martine
Farmington MPO	Vacant at this time
City of Grants	<b>Vice-Chair - Don Jaramillo, Mark Teshima</b>
City of Gallup	<b>Stan Henderson</b> , Alicia Santiago
Village of Milan	Jack Moleris - absent
Cibola County	<b>Judy Horacek</b> , Gary Porter
McKinley County	<b>Rodney Skersick</b> , 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, 6 NMDOT, 1 RTPO Staff,  
0 guests – TOTAL: 17

- 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. **Review & Approval of Agenda:**..... Robert Kuipers
  - Motion to Approve: Don Jaramillo - Grants, 2<sup>nd</sup>: Stan Henderson - Gallup; all in favor none opposed
- III. **Approval and Review of Minutes for 3/11/20 meeting:**..... Robert Kuipers
  - Motion to Approve: Stan Henderson – Gallup, 2<sup>nd</sup>: Dave Deutsawe - Acoma; all in favor, none opposed.
- IV. **Action Item: FFY2020 Regional Work Program & Budget – Amendment #2:**.....Robert Kuipers

<b>BACKGROUND</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Why?</b> RTPO Program Manager must present formal amendments for approval by our Joint Policy &amp; Technical Committee according to NMDOT Planning Procedures Manual when hours or budget line-item change exceed 20% shifts.</li> <li>• <b>Purpose.</b> To approve the second formal amendment as detailed herewithin.</li> <li>• <b>Discussion/Finalization.</b> If approved, RTPO Program Manager will submit to NMDOT for approval and make changes to Regional Work Program and Budget.</li> </ul>

<b>WORK TO DATE</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• RTPO staff are proposing a formal RWP budget adjustment with some hours and budget categories that exceed a 20% change due to anticipated demands on the RTPO for the remainder of year</li> <li>• Amendment #2 changes are explained in the subsequent COG memo.</li> </ul>

<b>ANTICIPATED WORK</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Finalize and package with the minutes of this meeting and submitted Amendment #2 to NMDOT.</li> </ul>

<b>ATTACHMENTS</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• RTPO Amendment Request Form with proposed new hours and budget allocations for the RWP work function categories for FFY-2020.</li> </ul>

<b>BUDGET IMPACT</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No impact on final budget or overall Work Program hours.</li> </ul>

<b>ACTION ITEM</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Staff recommends “approval” of this action item.</li> </ul>

**FFY2019 – 2020 RWP Amendment 2:**

Member:	Present	Yes	No	Abstain
Cibola County: Judy Horacek	✓	✓		
McKinley County: Rodney Skersick	✓	✓		
San Juan County: not present				
City of Gallup: Stanley Henderson	✓	✓		
City of Grants: Don Jaramillo / Mark Teshima	✓	✓		
Village of Milan: not present				
Northern / Eastern Navajo: not present				
Pueblo of Acoma: Dave Deutsawe / Raymond Concho Jr.	✓	✓		
Pueblo of Laguna: Ray Lucero	✓	✓		
Pueblo of Zuni: Royce Gchachu	✓	✓		
Ramah Navajo: Shane Lewis	✓	✓		

**Discussion:** no discussion – all in favor

**V. Action Item: Regional Work Program & Budget FFY2021 – 2022:**.....Robert Kuipers

<b>BACKGROUND</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Why?</b> Every two years the NWRTPO generates a biennial Regional Work Program – in this case for FFY2021 thru FFY2022</li> <li>• <b>Purpose.</b> The Regional Work Program guides both staff, and NWRTPO members activity, providing a voice for all local governments participating in the NWRTPO for the development of transportation infrastructure and services in collaboration with the NMDOT.</li> <li>• <b>Discussion/Finalization.</b> Members will vote to approve and authorize the RWP for FFY21-22.</li> </ul>

<b>CURRENT WORK</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Staff have generated the FFY2021-2022 RWP, for member review and approval</li> </ul>

<b>ANTICIPATED WORK</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Upon member approval and authorization, the NWRTPO RWP for FFY2021 - 2022 will be submitted to NMDOT.</li> </ul>

<b>ATTACHMENTS</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• FFY2021-2022 Regional Work Program</li> </ul>

<b>BUDGET IMPACT</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This action authorizes the proposed budget for this upcoming biennial period.</li> </ul>

<b>ACTION ITEM</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Members will vote to approve and authorize the FFY2021-2022 Regional Work Program</li> </ul>

**RWP & Budget – FFY2021-2022:**

<b>Member:</b>	<b>Present</b>	<b>Yes</b>	<b>No</b>	<b>Abstain</b>
Cibola County: Judy Horacek	✓	✓		
McKinley County: Rodney Skersick	✓	✓		
San Juan County: not present				
City of Gallup: Stanley Henderson	✓	✓		
City of Grants: Don Jaramillo / Mark Teshima	✓	✓		
Village of Milan: not present				
Northern / Eastern Navajo: not present				
Pueblo of Acoma: Dave Deutsawe / Raymond Concho Jr.	✓	✓		
Pueblo of Laguna: Ray Lucero	✓			✓
Pueblo of Zuni: Royce Gchachu	✓	✓		
Ramah Navajo: Shane Lewis	✓	✓		

**Discussion:**

One of our members expressed concern regarding wording under Function 1 – Long Range Planning and Implementation – Task 1.1.2, indicating that it appeared to favor several McKinley projects as higher priorities, related to the Four Corners Intermodal Transloading Equinox, and the Prewitt Area Transportation Master Plan. COG staff adjusted the way in which these projects (among many other project examples) were presented in the 1.1.2 verbiage to the member’s satisfaction, after which the member expressed support for the FFY2021-2022 RWP and Budget.

Members thru discussion decided to approve the FFY2021-2022 RWP & Budget as draft, and once it is authorized thru the NMDOT and FHWA-NM Administration, to vote for approval again as final – as advised from Mr. Ron Shutiva.

**DISCUSSION ITEMS:**

**VI. NWRTPO RTIPR Revision Process & Timeline.....Robert Kuipers**

BACKGROUND
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Why?</b> 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.</li> <li>• <b>Purpose.</b> 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.</li> <li>• <b>Discussion/Finalization.</b> <b>There will not be a Call for Projects in FFY2020:</b> the NWRTPO will simply update the RTIPR.</li> </ul>
CURRENT WORK
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• RTPO members will discuss the <b>RTIPR revision process and timeline.</b> At this time members will simply vote to approve and authorize the revision process and timeline – which will seek to update the RTIPR by removing projects or project phases that have already been funded, and <b>simply insert new projects via PFF’s.</b> The NWRTPO will not undertake the entire process recommended in the Call for projects, and simply add projects to the RTIPR via PFF’s – since funding is not anticipated until FFY2021.</li> </ul>
ANTICIPATED WORK
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• RTPO members to vote on approval and authorization of the FFY2020 – FFY2021 NWRTPO RTIPR revision process, and set timelines for PFF submission and review at the May 13 meeting.</li> </ul>
ATTACHMENTS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NWRTPO Call for Transportation Projects Guide.</li> </ul>
BUDGET IMPACT
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• None.</li> </ul>
ACTION ITEM
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No action needed</li> </ul>

**Discussion:**

NMDOT staff, RTPO staff, and RTPO members are aware that there is not much federal funding available through the NMDOT until at least FFY2021. That being the case, the NWRTPO will not execute a full Call for Projects this year. The NWRTPO will simply execute an RTIPR Revision, by eliminating any projects, or project phases that have been fully funded, and adding any new projects – or new project phases at the bottom of each categorical list, without prioritization. A formal Call for Projects may commence in FFY2021. RTPO staff presented a modified schedule for RTIPR revision from June, 2020 thru March, 2021. NWRTPO members were supportive of this process, and no concerns were expressed regarding its execution, or the lack of a full Call for Projects.

**VII. Update: N.M. Special Session & Project Claw-backs:.....NMDOT staff**

**Discussion:**

- NMDOT staff and RTPO members shared what they are aware of as follows:
- The freeze on Capital Outlay projects will only impact 2019 Capital Outlay awards
- 2019 projects with Notice of Obligation can move forward and access / apply their funding
- 2019 projects without a Notice of Obligation (NOO), will likely have funding retracted
- Ron Shutiva expressed concern and the need to follow up with Larry Joe regarding the Baahaali (Bread Springs) Chapter on the status of their LGTPF project for the Solid Waste Access Road project, and whether a NOO was issued. The project is being delayed by a permit needed from the Navajo Nation Environmental Protection Agency. Ron advises follow up with Councilman Mark Freeland to address the delay caused by the Navajo EPA.

- Dave Deutsawe indicated that it appears the state will only allow water, health and safety projects to move forward in terms of capital outlay spending.
- In general RTPO members are encouraged to consult with their respective leaders, and review which projects have NOO's, and which are positioned to obtain NOO's and execute as soon as possible.

**VIII. Reports, Updates & Announcements:**

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

<b>Informational Items</b>
<p><b>Regional News &amp; Updates</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regional Work Program Status Report</li> <li>• RTPO Report</li> <li>• Member Reports</li> </ul>
<p><b>Member Special Reports:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• None submitted prior to the meeting</li> </ul>
<p><b>NMDOT Reports:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• G to G Liaison: Neala Krueger</li> <li>• Tribal Liaison: Ron Shutiva</li> <li>• District 6: JoAnn Garcia &amp; staff; District 5: James Mexia and Stephanie Medina</li> </ul>
<p><b>News, Training &amp; Funding Opportunities:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">FHWA Planning, Environment &amp; Realty Reports</a>: 4/30</li> <li>• <a href="#">NMDOT Govt. to Govt. Update</a>: 4/13</li> <li>• <a href="#">AASHTO Publications</a>: 4/3, 4/24, 4/28 and 5/4</li> <li>• <a href="#">NMDOT / UNM-LTAP</a>: Provides a very robust collection of training opportunities – staff forward news to members as it comes out from this source – reference at <a href="http://ltap.unm.edu">ltap.unm.edu</a></li> <li>• EDC-5 Value Capture Virtual Peer Exchanges – May 7 &amp; 14</li> <li>• N.M. Tribal Contacts from Ron Shutiva</li> <li>• 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</li> <li>• <a href="#">ROUTES – “Rural Opportunities to Use Transportation for Economic Success</a>: USDOT Secretary Elaine Chao announced this new funding source supporting rural transportation needs in America.</li> <li>• <a href="#">US DOT announces \$321.4 million in “Nationally Significant Federal Lands and Tribal Projects”</a>: (NSFLTP) this funding will support maintenance repair or new construction for roads and bridges serving tribal or federal lands. <a href="https://www.transportation.gov/briefing-room/fhwa1519">https://www.transportation.gov/briefing-room/fhwa1519</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Title VI Training</a> 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.</li> <li>• <a href="#">USDOT 2020 BUILD Grant</a>: funding for large / expensive projects</li> <li>• <a href="#">Tran-SET Conference rescheduled for Sept. 1-2, 2020</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">2020 Tribal Motor Vehicle Safety Summit</a>: May 19-21, Isleta Casino</li> <li>• <b>Note that any announced trainings may be delayed / postponed due to COVID-19 pandemic.</b></li> </ul>

**A. RTPO Reports:**

- Staff provided the monthly report for April which includes announcements on training and funding opportunities, and other transportation news from the recent past or near future. Staff provided the monthly work hours and budget expenditures summary for April.
- 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.
  - **All CMGC-2 Projects have been shut down due to COVID-19 precautions, and are presently scheduled to resume on May 18.**
- 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. Public involvement meetings are postponed due to COVID-19, which will delay completion dates for these 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; 20 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.
- 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 performa 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 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.

### 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 Gameraco with US491, which leads to the developing Energy Logistics Park (and potential Inland Port).
- The County is providing base course and chipseal for the Pine Haven road, and gravel for the Allison road.

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.

5. Milan: (not present this meeting former report follows)

- Coop funded project for drainage behind Allsups – design complete, project out to bid for construction soon
- Uranium and East Street drainage project will utilize LGRF funds.
- Mirabol Park design complete – Village is pursuing funding for construction.
- Berry Hill and Haystack streets Elkins Park project – Utilities, roads, parking and drainage for Elkins Park is out to bid

6. Ramah:

- Acting executive director for Ramah Navajo Chapter's 638 Grants & Contract Programs issued extension shelter in place memorandum restricting travel, purchasing and reducing staff to essential employees.
- 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: Received draft report for BIA 145 and BIA 113.
- 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 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. Anticipate bidding in July and construction to commence in September. Total project stands at \$6.2 million.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Street – **construction is now complete**. 2<sup>nd</sup> street bridge out to bid for construction in June.
- Washington bridge replacement over 2<sup>nd</sup> Street thru LGTPF funding will include a walking opportunity for High School students – out to bid in June; 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 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 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 almost 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 Postal Road and L245 Raindrop Road; Pueblo is closing out these projects at this time.
- LGFR / 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 Paguete 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, Gadiahii, 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
  - Gadiahii-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. **NMDOT is still needing support letters from Naschitti, Sheep Springs, and Newcomb Chapters.** (Ron Shutiva added that the findings from the RSA need action in the near future.)
- 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, including the exit 114 bridge.
- Many tribes benefited from the recent LGTPF funding opportunity – which is now called the Transportation Project Fund from the State of New Mexico. New funding from this source not anticipated until FFY2021.
- Ron brought up Tribal Lands funding and ROUTES funding now available.
- A Road Dust webinar is forthcoming. COVID-19 webinars are available from the NM Governor.
- The Pueblo Cultural Center in Albuquerque has a “Pueblo Relief Fund” available, and around \$300K has already been distributed. Go to [PuebloReliefFund.org](http://PuebloReliefFund.org).
- Ron reported on the NM118 drainage analysis that took place between the Iyanbito and Ft. Wingate I-40 intersections at previous meetings. Ron indicated he feels that **NM118 drainage issues remain unresolved to this day (in spite of two studies!) and the Navajo Nation DOT remains non-responsive!**
- Ron shared concern regarding the lack of an NDOT Eastern Navajo representative – they are putting a lot of pressure on Larry Joe!

#### 3. DOT District 5 – Steve Lopez has retired - previous reports 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 Reports from James Mexia and Stephanie Medina:**
- D-5 staff are managing project proposals for the 2021 Local Govt. Road Fund, and are waiting on the DOT General Office in Santa Fe for LGRF awards.

#### 4. DOT District 6 – Bill Santiago:

- Previous report from JoAnn:
  - 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.
- Bill Santiago: Local Govt. Road Fund projects have been submitted to Santa Fe – once approved, the District will draft agreements for local governments. LGTPF funding is going out to local governments.

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

- Don Jaramillo (Grants) raised the question on whether NMDOT will offer project extensions related to COVID-19. Ron Shutiva replied that we are awaiting word from the Governor.
- Neala Krueger mentioned that the N.M. Dept. of Health provides good information on COVID-19.

#### IX. Review Calendar & Announcements:

- FHWA Planning, Environment & Realty Reports: 4/30 – emailed to members as reports came out
- NMDOT Govt. to Govt. Update: 4/13 – emailed to members as these reports came out
- AASHTO Publications: 4/3, 4/24, 4/28 and 5/4 – 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](http://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
- ROUTES – “Rural Opportunities to Use Transportation for Economic Success: USDOT Secretary Elaine Chao announced this new funding source supporting rural transportation needs in America.
- US DOT announces \$321.4 million in “Nationally Significant Federal Lands and Tribal Projects”: (NSFLTP) this funding will support maintenance repair or new construction for roads and bridges serving tribal or federal lands. <https://www.transportation.gov/briefing-room/fhwa1519>
- Title VI Training 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.
- USDOT 2020 BUILD Grant: funding for large / expensive projects – emailed to members 2/20
- Federal Transit Funding Opportunities: emailed to our regional Transit providers and RTPO members 4/1
- FHWA Virtual Peer Exchange Workshops: emailed to members 3/31 (scheduled May – Oct., 2020)
- 2020 Census Info.: emailed to members 3/31
- 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 June 10 meeting 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 12:30 pm; motion: Dave Deutsawe – Pueblo of Acoma; 2<sup>nd</sup>: Don Jaramillo – Grants; 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 conducted via conference call, due to the COVID-19 / Corona-virus Pandemic.**