

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

Wednesday August 12, 2020
 10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
 Virtual meeting executed via conference call
 Due to COVID-19 Pandemic

ATTENDANCE:

Local & Tribal Governments	
Entity	Representative(s)
Pueblo of Acoma	Dave Deutsawe (Chair)
Pueblo of Laguna	absent
Pueblo of Zuni	Royce Gchachu
Navajo Nation	absent (<i>Northern & Eastern Agencies</i>)
Ramah Navajo	absent
City of Grants	Don Jaramillo
City of Gallup	Alicia Santiago
Village of Milan	absent
Cibola County	Judy Horacek
McKinley County	absent
San Juan County	absent
Farmington Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) – 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
Tribal Liaison	Ron Shutiva
Other NMDOT Staff	Jolene Herrera, Luke Smith

Regional Transportation Planning Organization	
Entity	Representative(s)
Northwest NM Council of Governments	Robert Kuipers

Tally Sheet – Attendance & Quorum

Total Full Attendance:	Member Entities:	NMDOT	RTPO	Guests	Full Attendance Norm:	
	12	Normally 4-5: DOT Liaison, Tribal Liaison, District 5 & 6 Representatives	1	varies	18	
Attendance – this meeting:	Member Attendance:	NMDOT Attendance:	Staff:	Guests:	Attendance % this meeting:	TOTAL:
	5	7	1	0	72%	13

ROUTINE ITEMS:

Item #	Item
I.	Call to Order and Introductions. The meeting was called to order at 10:15 am, Dave Deutsawe and Bob Kuipers 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 pandemic.
II.	Agenda. RTPO Program Manager provided an overview of the day's agenda topics. ACTION: Don Jaramillo (Grants) motioned and Judy Horacek (Cibola) seconded adoption of the agenda. All in favor – motion carried.
III.	Minutes (July 8, 2020). Chairman provided time for review of minutes and no comments or revisions were made. ACTION: Don Jaramillo (Grants) motioned and Alicia Santiago (Gallup) seconded adoption of the minutes. All in favor – motion carried.

ACTION ITEMS:

Item #	Item	Presenter
	No action items this meeting.	Robert Kuipers, Program Manager

DISCUSSION/PRESENTATION ITEMS:

Item #	Item	Presenter
IV.	Presentation: Functional Classification Change Opportunities	Robert Kuipers
BACKGROUND		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Why? Functional Classification (F.C.) Change requests are a long entailing process that can take up to two years to complete. Members who anticipate pursuing F.C. upgrades due to anticipated economic development or increased traffic along their corridors should understand the process and commence well in advance of anticipated traffic increases. Purpose. In a rapidly changing world, rural areas such as ours need to “stay ahead of the game just to keep pace.” Anticipating opportunities and preparing in advance can make the difference between success and failure. RTPO members are encouraged to consider where in their regions functional classification upgrades may support current and future development trends. Discussion/Finalization. Staff will share information from NMDOT, and available on their website that members are encouraged to explore as they consider where classification upgrade requests may be appropriate for anticipated future growth and development. 		
CURRENT WORK		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Present Functional Classification information. 		
ANTICIPATED WORK		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members may choose to pursue classification upgrades in consultation with their respective governments. 		
ATTACHMENTS		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Several documents informing on Functional Classification 		
BUDGET IMPACT		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> None 		
ACTION ITEM		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> N/A at this time – potential action for future meetings 		

Robert Kuipers provided an overview of the current NMDOT Functional Classification Guidance Manual – developed or updated in 2013 and revised in 2014. In particular he covered section 4.2 (pp. 4-6 thru 4-11) which provides the procedural steps for determining functional classification (in the case of our region for any upgrades our members may be interested in). Staff covered the steps outlayed in this guidance, which includes identifying traffic generators, and achieving adequate traffic counts on corridors responding to generators such as casinos, truck terminals, and other forms of economic development opportunities for rural community scenarios. This section includes a functional classification guide, a functional classification change request form, general rules for requesting F.C. upgrades, and a process timeline (around 2 years) to achieve a corridor upgrade.

Item #	Topic	Presenter
V.	Presentation: T/LPA Handbook – 2019 Update (<i>Tribal & Local Public Agency Handbook</i>)	Jolene Herrera – NMDOT (with support from Robert Kuipers)
BACKGROUND		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why? The TLPA Handbook helps guide the functions and activities of statewide MPO's and RTPO's for development and maintenance of transportation infrastructure and services • Purpose. Inform NWRTPO members on 2019 updates to the T/LPA Handbook • Discussion/Finalization. Members will become better acquainted with recent updates. 		
CURRENT WORK		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • T/LPA Handbook went thru a more major update this year, providing guidance to MPO's and RTPO's for development and maintenance of transportation infrastructure and services. 		
ANTICIPATED WORK		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members will be encouraged to go thru the manual available on the NWNMCOG – RTPO website or the NMDOT website. 		
ATTACHMENTS		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sections from the TLPA update, and the 2019 Update Power Point 		
BUDGET IMPACT		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None 		
ACTION ITEM		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N/A – Members are encouraged to scan thru the updated TLPA Handbook available on the NWNMCOG – RTPO website or the NMDOT website. 		

Robert Kuipers introduced the Handbook presentation and indicated that included in the meeting package were primary update excerpts including Hazardous Materials, R.O.W. Reimbursement, and Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Program opportunities; along with the TLPA 2019 Update Power Point. Also the full 2019 updated TLPA Handbook was emailed to members on 8/10.

Jolene Herrera – NMDOT:

Ms. Herrera indicated where the TLPA Handbook update could be found on the NMDOT website – basically under the Business Icon, then navigate to the TLPA webpage under that section.

- Ms. Herrera covered some of the main additions which included: a) Hazardous Materials Investigation – PP.73 – 75; b) Reimbursement for Right Of Way Activities – pp. 91 – 92; and c) the Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Program – pp. 123 – 125. (*Robert Kuipers had provided these sections in this RTPO meeting package, along with the TLPA Handbook 2019 update Power-point presentation*)
- Ms. Herrera indicated that there will likely be additional updates in 2020 based on RTPO and MPO feedback, with a final revised TLPA Handbook anticipated around September or October, 2020.
- As updates are finalized in 2020 (in part based on feedback from RTPO's and MPO's) the Environmental and Hazardous Materials sections will become separate chapters.
- The environmental section will include a gateway section addressing economic/community opportunities posted with gateway signage on DOT corridors.

- The Right of Way chapter will include an updated reimbursement process
- The Rail Road chapter will include changes – mainly that the Railroad will charge fees for review of local plans that involve railroad infrastructure / crossings / bridges – etc.
- There will also be some ITS (*Intelligent Transportation Systems*) clarification

Item #	Topic	Presenter
VI - A.	NWRTPO 2020 Regional (long range) Transportation Plan Update	Robert Kuipers
BACKGROUND		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why? The NWRTPO makes minor updates to its Regional Transportation Plan every year; but every 5 years the NWRTPO undertakes a more major update to its RTP in sync. with NMDOT's LRTP update. • Purpose. This year the NWRTPO will undertake a more significant update to our Regional Transportation Plan, and try to some extent to coordinate / synchronize our priorities with those represented within the NM-LRTP update that have appeal or utility within our region. • Discussion/Finalization. Members will be provided 1) a concise summary and 2) a more detailed summary outlining the process and schedule for our RTP update. 		
CURRENT WORK		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members will be encouraged to familiarize with our Regional Transportation Plan on the NWNM Council of Governments website, and consider what interests their respective regional govt. jurisdiction may have for inclusion in our more significant RTP update this year. 		
ANTICIPATED WORK		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members will be asked to consider and contribute toward updating our RTP this year to insure that their respective interests are represented in the final document – anticipating completion in September or October, 2020. • Members will be particularly asked to update their govt. jurisdiction's priorities for <u>Appendix 2 – Public Outreach Report</u>, which cites forthcoming priorities for both our region (p.85) and our respective NWRTPO Member Governments pp. 86 – 103. It will be important for our respective members to execute update recommendations for this section within specified timelines; those who do not respond will be left out. These new priorities can reflect both current RTIPR project priorities, as well as new prioritized directions or interests that participating member governments wish to pursue for multi-modal transportation maintenance or development. 		
ATTACHMENTS		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quick Summary – FFY2020 NWRTPO Regional Transportation Plan Update. • General Schedule for NWRTPO Regional Transportation Plan Update. • Information on E.D.A. Opportunity Zones that may be relevant for transportation participation and infrastructure. 		
BUDGET IMPACT		ACTION ITEM
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • N/A

Robert Kuipers covered two documents provided in the meeting package providing a timeframe summary regarding updates to the NWRTPO Regional (long range) Transportation Plan – being conducted in sync. with the NMDOT LRTP update. Most of our RTP will not require much updating, as the NWRTPO conducts updates on an annual basis. The documents provide page numbers for each section of the NWRTPO Regional Transportation Plan, to make it easier for members to navigate. A member survey has also been issued related to the NWRTPO RTP update, which will help staff gain information from the RTPO members. At this point the only major update staff anticipate is adding US Economic Development Administration “Opportunity Zones” to the plan, as these will require transportation infrastructure to execute opportunities within our region. Included in the meeting package also were data sources from NMDOT as well as a “Data Users Guide Overview” from the NMDOT for technical and freight planning.

Members were encouraged to check out Appendix 2 – Public Outreach Report which cites our Member Governments long range project priorities to make sure their citations are updated (pp. 86-103). Member

governments currently cited in this section include: Navajo Nation – Northern & Eastern Agencies and NM Fort Defiance District, San Juan County, Cibola County, McKinley County, Village of Milan, City of Gallup, City of Grants, Pueblo of Acoma, and Pueblo of Laguna. **Member governments currently not cited in this section for their region’s transportation priorities include Ramah Navajo and Pueblo of Zuni.** Staff are requesting all member governments to check this section and take out any transportation projects that have been completed, and for Ramah and Zuni to take this opportunity to incorporate their transportation infrastructure priorities into this NWRTPO RTP update.

Neala Krueger recommended that the NWRTPO align their RTP update with the NMDOT LRTP update so that to the greatest extent possible, we can align ours with state priorities. RK indicated that this is our intent, and is how we’ve executed in the past. Neala indicated better to take time and carefully update as there is no pressure to hurry.

Item #	Topic	Presenter
VI - B.	RTIPR Revision Process and Timeline	Robert Kuipers
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 discussion on progress with Project Feasibility Forms to qualify new projects for inclusion in the FFY2021 RTIPR Revision for the NWRTPO. • Discussion/Finalization. There will not be a formal Call for Projects in FFY2020: the NWRTPO will simply undertake an RTIPR Revision Update with PFF’s for new projects or phases due at our October 14 meeting. This is due to the impact of COVID-19 on State Tax Revenues, which are anticipated to be significantly reduced due to related lengthy closures of small businesses. Bearing this in mind, available funding (from tax revenues) for transportation infrastructure is not anticipated until at least FFY2021 or even 2022 depending on how the COVID-19 restrictions continue to play out. 		
CURRENT WORK		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RTPO members will discuss the RTIPR revision process and timeline. At this time members will simply discuss progress with updating the RTIPR by removing projects or project phases that have already been funded, and adding new projects or phases via PFF’s. 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 or later. 		
ANTICIPATED WORK		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RTPO members will discuss progress with eliminating funded projects or phases in the current RTIPR, and inserting new projects or phases via PFF’s for the FFY2020 – FFY2021 NWRTPO RTIPR revision. 		
ATTACHMENTS		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RTIPR Revision Timeline • PFF form - fillable 		
BUDGET IMPACT		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None. 		
ACTION ITEM		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No action needed other than getting started on a) reviewing the RTIPR and recommending projects or phases that have been funded for removal, and b) submitting PFF’s for new projects or phases. 		

Robert Kuipers covered the revision timeline and PFF form, which were part of this meeting package. PFF’s are due by the October 14 meeting for new projects or new phases. Process is quite clear and members are aware of COVID-19 funding restraints, so there was not much discussion.

Item #	Topic	Presenter
VII.	REPORTS: (10 minute limit due to virtual meeting)	RTPO & DOT staff, RTPO members

Significant news only due to virtual meeting

RTPO Program Report (<i>significant news only</i>) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff did not provide reports for hours or funding invested for July, or an RTPO update report due to being spread thin this month, and the anticipation of a long meeting with a robust agenda package this time. Staff will resume these reports for next month's meeting. FHWA Planning, Environment and Realty Reports, NMDOT Planning Government to Government Reports, and AASHTO Publication Updates are regularly forwarded to members as they come out. 	Robert Kuipers
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BACKGROUND

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

Informational Items

Regional News & Updates <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regional Work Program Status Report RTPO Report Member Reports

Member Special Reports: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> None submitted prior to the meeting
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NMDOT Reports: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> G to G Liaison: Neala Krueger Tribal Liaison: Ron Shutiva District 6: JoAnn Garcia & staff; District 5: vacant at this time

News, Training & Funding Opportunities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>FHWA Planning, Environment & Realty Reports</u>: 7/09 and 7/23 <u>NMDOT Govt. to Govt. Update</u>: none <u>AASHTO Publications</u>: none <u>NMDOT / UNM-LTAP</u>: Provides a very robust collection of training opportunities – staff forward news to members as it comes out from this source – reference at ltap.unm.edu (current on-line courses sent to members) <u>Notice of Updated NMDOT Policy & Procedures Manual</u> (PPM) available on DOT website <u>Gov. Lujan-Grisham approves \$178 million in CARES Act Funding</u>: for small business, tribal & local Govts. <u>NHI Training Opportunities</u>: Principles & Practices for Maintenance Management Systems - sent to members 7/31 <u>Announcement that NEPA Public & Training Meetings will be Virtual</u>: sent to members 7/31 <u>Federal Grants Advisory</u>: sent to members 7/31 <u>Federal TRAN-SET Virtual Conference – Sept. 1-2</u>: Announcement sent to members 7/31 <u>Innovation Exchange Webinars</u>: information emailed to members 7/28 <u>NM Recreational Trails Advisory Board</u>: request for Advisory Board members sent to members 7/28 <u>ROUTES – “Rural Opportunities to Use Transportation for Economic Success</u>: USDOT Secretary Elaine Chao announced this new funding source supporting rural transportation needs in America. This month a “Tool Kit” for ROUTES funding was sent to members 7/29 <u>US DOT announces \$321.4 million in “Nationally Significant Federal Lands and Tribal Projects”</u>: (NSFLTP) this funding will support maintenance repair or new construction for roads and bridges serving tribal or federal lands. https://www.transportation.gov/briefing-room/fhwa1519 <u>Title VI Training</u> is available to MPO's and RTPO's from Lisa Neie – Civil Rights Manager for FHWA New Mexico. These trainings can be customized to address member concerns and issues for their regions, if provided to her in advance. Based on training length, we could provide it at one of our meetings.

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

Pueblo of Acoma

- Pueblo concluded project development on March 17 related to the COVID-19 pandemic; resumed project development on May 17. Pueblo of Acoma remained closed thru June 2; contractors are now two months behind due to COVID-19 pandemic.
- **CMGC2 – 1: Construction of new office for Transportation and other Departments is underway – anticipate completion by August 28, 2020.**
- 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. **Final guaranteed maximum price was received today – 8/12/20.**
- CMGC2 – 4 Projects: (*request for proposals for this new bundle of projects was published 2/10/19*)
- FEMA 4352 Large Projects (39) – 38 projects have been completed; work began in the southern regions of the Pueblo, just a few more 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; beyond this public involvement will be postponed till a later date. The completion date has now been moved to December, 2020.** 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; 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.**
- 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

- **The Pueblo is under lock down with little administrative activity due to COVID-19 pandemic; the Pueblo has extended re-opening until August 31, 2020 – but this could be extended further if COVID-19 persists.**
- 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.**
- **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.**
- Ongoing road maintenance around the Pueblo. **This includes crews addressing mowing, culvert repairs, blading gravel or dirt roads, asphalt pothole repairs and vegetation control.**
- **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.

McKinley County

- 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.
- TIF: \$1.2 million awarded for 10 miles of Deer Springs Road improvement – project on hold until Spring of 2020 for Mexican Springs Chapter. NDOT is contributing Fuel Excise Tax funding. Funding will allow drainage improvements, five miles of gravel base improvement and three miles of chip-seal.
- TIF: \$1.3 million awarded for 18 miles of CR19 gravel and chip-seal road improvement – multiple Eastern Navajo Chapters; collaborating with NDOT for road repairs and renovation. NDOT is contributing Fuel Excise Tax funding. Project has commenced, but completion anticipated until this coming summer around weather issues.
- The County will contract out their LGTPF project for Manuelito Canyon bridge replacement and road improvements.
- The County will benefit with \$23 million for improvements to the Carbon Coal Road intersection in Gamarco with US491, which leads to the developing Energy Logistics Park (and potential Inland Port).
- The County has completed gravelling Allison road is currently providing base course and chipseal for the Pine Haven road.

Gallup

- NOO's have been processed for the Gallup Mainstreet Project – construction anticipated to commence July 1. **Coal Avenue Commons** project will commence ground breaking on May 13 – there will be a related celebration on that day.
- Nizhoni and W. Aztec improvements are currently in design.
- 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.
- 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.

Milan (not present this meeting)

No report submitted this month.

Ramah (not present this meeting – previous report as follows:

- 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 Development Department for the Navajo Nation Rural Addressing Project.
- Ongoing general maintenance for area roads, cattle guards and signage, blading and shaping, potholes and base course patching (incl. school bus routes). Cleaning and replacing roadway signs. Field fence repairs, post replacements and gate repairs.

Cibola County

- 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 for County and Forest Roads.**

Grants

- Riverwalk trail: Design at 100% from WHPacific, Project is on hold for the time being.
- First Street phase 2 – Adams to Roosevelt: design at 100%; added a pond and lift station on Geis Street for drainage; allotted \$1.8 million from 2019 state legislature for final phase 3 from Washington to Roosevelt. **Final PS&E is scheduled for this month 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 RTPD 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: Construction has been completed, including a bike & ped. trail.
- M137 bridge at Laguna Subdivision: Construction complete and project in close out with BIA.
- Mill, Overlay, Striping & Enhancement Projects: Construction is complete for L503 – Veterans Memorial Road, L200 Postal Road and L245 Raindrop Road; Pueblo is closing out these projects at this time.
- LGRF / BIA Road Maintenance Striping Projects: Phase 2 & 3: Phase 2 – working on ITS certs. for L500 Mountain Ash Loop and Central Park roads. Phase 3 – working on NMDOT certs for L540 – Veterans Memorial Road and L200 Elizabeth Bender Road. Construction to commence this summer for both phases.
- NM 124 Roundabout: The repairs to the roundabout are being coordinated by NMDOT, no start date has been determined.
- L24 Rainfall Road: design changed to two phases, Ph-1 Road & Trail and Ph-2 Conc Box Underpass, design is in progress and construction funded for \$1.9 million from the LGTPF fund!
- L26 Deer Dancer Road: at 95% design, working on ROW amendments and E.A.
- L243 Acorn Road design: completed 100% design and PS&E review from the BIA. Construction pending funding.
- M154 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.

Navajo Nation – Northern Agency

- **Larry Joe requests COG RTPO Manager to help him include US491 RSA recommendations Naschitti to Newcomb as proposed projects in our 2020 RTIPR revision.**
- 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 District 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 District 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.
 - Upper Fruitlan 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 through 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 Government 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.

Navajo Nation – Eastern Navajo

- The Contract for L.G.T.P.F. RSA's is out to bid for the participating District 14 communities of Mexican Springs, Tohatchi and Twin Lakes Chapters.
- 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 through 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 NM side for Northern Navajo, Eastern Navajo, and the New Mexico side of Ft. Defiance Agency.

New Mexico Department of Transportation Reports (significant news only)	RTPO Liaison (Neala Krueger) Tribal Liaison (Ron Shutiva) District 5 (James Mexia, Stephanie Medina) District 6 (JoAnn Garcia; Bill Santiago)
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New news in bold

Multimodal Planning & Programs Bureau – Neala Krueger

- Lee Engineering emailed stakeholders the final US-491 Road Safety Audit Report and appendix on June 2nd. This RSA comprised Naschitti, Newcomb, and Sheep Springs communities and was funded via HSIP. Any further questions, response letters, or letters of support can be directed to Neala Krueger (neala.krueger@state.nm.us). Feedback from the Navajo Chapters is still pending.
- The NMDOT Long Range Transportation Plan website/portal is available at <https://newmexico2045plan.com/>. Please complete the survey. Also, share your feedback, thoughts, and ideas through the “Contact Us” form. In light of COVID-19, **stakeholder workshops were conducted in July through a virtual, webinar format. Neala will send the URL link for info. and reports on the State LRTP update and Robert K. will forward to members.**
- **NMDOT is seeking representatives for a statewide Recreational Trails Oversight Committee due by Aug. 14.**
- NMDOT Planning is undertaking a Pedestrian Safety Action Plan. A public survey and input map is available at: <https://nmpedplan.altaplanning.cloud/#/>

NMDOT Tribal Liaison – Ron Shutiva

- Ron is reminding all RTPO members to be sure to check that their Capital Outlay, T.I.F. and L.G.R.F. projects are active and on track, because if no action has been initiated for too long a time it is highly probable that the State will retract the funding – due to the significant reduction in tax revenues related to the significantly negative impact of COVID-19 on tax revenues from the private sector!
- Ron indicated that there will be another tribal stakeholder workshop for the NM 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan on July 22.
- Ron indicated that the Laguna I-40 improvement project is moving forward from Exit 112 to 117.
- A report will be forthcoming for the NM118 Iyanbito area drainage study on July 29.
- 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.

- 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.
- The Pueblo Cultural Center in Albuquerque has a “Pueblo Relief Fund” available, and around \$300K has already been distributed. Go to 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!

NMDOT District 5 – James Mexia, Stephanie Medina

- WHPacific is being contracted for a study on needed road and intersection improvements on US 64 – MP 0 – 20 (which includes the Shiprock School Zone). This project will be divided into two phases funded separately and in the District 5 HSIP plan for 2021 including a) primary / major Chapter or community intersections from Shiprock to the Arizona border and b) the Shiprock School Zone.
- The NM371 and N36 intersection near Northern Edge Casino is at 60% design; need ROW clearance / easement from NDOT.
- The District is looking at the need to replace the aging Shiprock San Juan River bridge.
- **D-5 staff are managing project proposals for the 2021 Local Government Road Fund, and have received awards from the DOT General Office in Santa Fe for the next fiscal year.**
- D-5 staff are reminding local governments that Coop Projects are due by December, 2020.

NMDOT District 6 - JoAnn Garcia participated in the early part of the meeting – no new news from DOT Dist. 6.

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

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

- **Luke Smith – NMDOT Central Regional Design indicated that the McKinley Carbon Coal intersection with US491 project is at 60% design – 90% design anticipated by January, 2021.**

ANNOUNCEMENTS & NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, September meeting, 2020 to be held at the Laguna Public Works Dept. – I-40 Exit 114 to NM124 Roundabout, then east on old Rt. 66 to L55 Rodeo Road, then north to first parking lot on left; **in the event COVID-19 restrictions are not lifted, the meeting will revert to virtual via conference call.**

ADJOURNMENT (12:00 noon)

ACTION: *Dave Deutsawe* – (Pueblo of Acoma) moved and *Alicia Santiago* (Gallup) seconded for adjournment Motion carried by acclamation.

MEETING ACTIONS:

RTPO Members:

- *RTPO Meeting Schedule:* Review and confirm in advance if meetings cannot be held in person due to COVID-19 restrictions.
- Don Jaramillo and Mark Teshima to work with Luke Smith - NMDOT Central Regional Design, for First Street phase 3 (control # 6100700) to reduce six different project control numbers back into one project control number, as the City has the funding to complete the project. Luke does not understand what happened within NMDOT to divide the project into six different segments when the City has the funding to complete the entire (final phase) project. Luke will work with the Santa Fe STIP Coordinator and NMDOT District 6 to reduce the project back to one final phase with one control number for the entire project – since the City has the funding to complete the project.
- **Staff have recommended that members pursue recreational trails enthusiasts from their respective jurisdictions to be part of a statewide recreational trails oversight committee – applications due by August 24, 2020.**

RTPO Staff:

- *RTPO Orientation Video:* Produce and distribute a video for members and governing bodies.
- **Staff to follow up with RTPO members to see which governments have had their respective leaders review the video to remain or become familiar with the RTPO function and service to local governments.**
- Staff have recommended that members pursue recreational trails enthusiasts from their respective jurisdictions to be part of a statewide recreational trails oversight committee – applications due by August 24, 2020.

NMDOT Staff:

- *T/LPA Handbook Training:* Is it possible to have an abbreviated training at the next meeting or to video this training so that all NWRTPO members can access it. (Jolene Herrera) **This was accomplished at today's meeting.**
- *New Mexico Transportation Plan Update:* July 14 Virtual Stakeholder workshop was provided. *This meeting conducted in virtual conf. call mode due to COVID-19 restrictions.* **Neala Krueger emailed the latest information from the state on the LRTP update and Robert Kuipers will forward to RTPO members. Robert has already submitted the 2019 Plan Update along with the related Power Point Presentation to RTPO members in advance of this meeting.**