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Connecting the Dots...

Serving San Juan, McKinley, and Cibola County Governments for 40 years!

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SPOTLIGHT: FOUR CORNERS ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Emerging into the Future



FOUR CORNERS ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT, INC

A remarkable private-public partnership has emerged in San Juan County, building on over three decades of economic development ("San Juan Economic Development Service"), setting a new vision, adding resources and targeting new opportunities.

The partnership has now founded a new 501(c)(6) corporation, "**Four Corners Economic Development, Inc.**" (4CED), while partnering with the SJEDS 501(c)(3), now named "Four Corners Economic Development Foundation," whose members serve on the 501(c)(6) Board.

The new organization is chaired by Aztec Mayor **Sally Burbidge**, with Representative **Tom Taylor** chairing the 501(c)(3) Foundation.

The new strategy had its genesis in a self-funded private sector "think tank" group known as "E>P" — referring to the concept popularized by economic development consultant Mark Lautman: growth in the economy "E" must be greater than growth in the population ("P"). E>P commissioned Lautman and two other firms to

analyze economic trends and to target high-priority economic sectors for recruitment and diversification, resulting in the goal of creating 500 economic-base jobs a year.

COG 1st Vice-President **Dr. Jim Henderson**, for many years President of San Juan College and now finishing out his term on the San Juan County Commission, has been an intimate part of and key leader in the E>P and 4CED planning processes. Former COG Board Treasurer **Julie Rasor** serves as 4CED's Director of Administration & Operations.

The COG honors the work of San Juan County Commissioner **Margaret McDaniel**, former SJEDS Executive Director and recently retired from the SJEDS/4CED partnership.

COG Director **Jeff Kiely** worked closely with E>P and a joint steering committee that also included SJEDS and San Juan College to finalize the "E>P Report" as a blueprint for a new, targeted economic development strategy for the future. The 4CED organization grew out of this joint planning process, and the 4CED Board is now actively recruiting for the group's founding CEO.

Navajo Microenterprise Incubator Project at Sheep Springs

Under subcontract with **New Mexico Community Capital** (with funding from a WW Kellogg Foundation grant), the COG is partnering with **Tohatchi Area of Opportunity & Service, Inc. (TAOS)** to carry out a "microenterprise incubator" project focused at the Navajo Visitor Welcome Center in Sheep Springs. Recruitment into the program is off to a slower start than anticipated, but startup work on the project has been steady. Presentations have been in full swing in recent months targeting 8 local Navajo Chapters around Sheep Springs. Thus far, 9 local entrepreneurs have expressed serious interest. Recruitment efforts are expanding to ensure enrollment of at least 15 participants in the project's first round of training. Project participants will benefit from a year-round training program that includes weekend use of vendor booths at the Welcome Center. Future project plans include a "farmers market" component of the incubator project.

For more information or if you know of Navajo entrepreneurs who might be interested, please refer them to COG Planner **Bob Kuipers**.

Council of Governments 40th Anniversary

Below: More than 100 friends, supporters, partners, and guests enjoyed a delicious meal at the 40th Anniversary Banquet.



Below: COG Director Jeff Kiely speaks at the 40th Anniversary Banquet. Speakers and guests listened attentively about the COG's legacy and honoring this year's Regional Champions from all three Counties of Northwest New Mexico



Below: Former COG Executive Director & State Representative Patty Lundstrom leads a group on a "Walking Tour of Downtown Gallup"—the tour focused on COG-related or collaborative efforts and projects around the downtown area.



The Council of Governments celebrated 40 years of service to Northwest New Mexico on August 23, 2012.

The day started out with an Open House at COG headquarters at 409 South 2nd Street, complete with pastries, fruit, and exhibits on 40 years of hard work, accomplishments, and recognition.

The COG offices were buzzing as friends, supporters, and partners of the COG made their way through the Open House, which also coincided with the annual meetings of the COG Executive Committee and Board of Directors.

The COG staff researched COG history and found many notable events over the decades. Copies of newspaper articles were posted on the COG walls. Current projects were also highlighted, such as the Northwest New Mexico Brownfields Assessment

Coalition, the Northwest New Mexico Regional Energy Program, Trail of the Ancients Scenic Byway, the National Geographic "Four

Corners Geotourism" Project, the McKinley County Roads Forums, and the latest Northwest New Mexico Factbook.

On the heels of a successful day at the COG offices, a 40th Anniversary Banquet celebration was held at the Fire Rock Navajo Casino in Churchrock, NM.

Long-time supporters of the COG were on hand to say a few words about the COG and its legacy and kind words of encouragement for the future. Current COG Board Chairman **Billy Moore**, McKinley County Commissioner **Dave Dallago, Jr.**, and Gallup City Councilor **Bryan Wall** all offered fine welcoming words to more than 100 dinner guests. Among distinguished guests were New Mexico State Representative **Patty Lundstrom**, City of Grants Mayor **Joe Murrietta**, McKinley County Commissioner **Carol Bowman-Muskett**, Navajo Nation President **Ben Shelly**, and local celebrity and San Juan County Manager, **Kim Carpenter** (whose life story is depicted in the book and popular movie, "The Vow").

Representative Lundstrom, as the long serving former Executive Director of the COG, was also the keynote speaker at the banquet. She fondly spoke about the development and recruit-



ment of COG Member Governments. She also talked about defining moments like the "Fighting Back" initiative which brought current Executive Director **Jeff Kiely** on board with the COG, and the Navajo-Gallup Water Supply Project — now finally being built under a \$1 billion Congressional authorization.

A highlight of the evening was presentation of this year's "Regional Champions" Awards to: Former COG Board Chairman and Village of Milan Mayor Emeritus **Warren Mathers** from Cibola County (received by his wife Faye); current Transportation Commissioner and proud veteran **Jackson Gibson** for McKinley County; and current COG Board member and long-time Board Chairman **Dr. Bill Hall** for San Juan County.

The evening concluded with a look by Executive Director Jeff Kiely at the COG and its prospect for a successful "next 40 years."

Thank you again to our supporters, friends and guests for a wonderful evening celebrating 40 years with the Council of Governments!

Your COG Staff

For more photos and brief biographies on this year's Regional Champions, go to www.nwnmcog.com

NWRTPO News

“A JOURNEY OF A THOUSAND MILES MUST BEGIN WITH A SINGLE STEP.” – LAO TZU

Under a new name, **Northwest Regional Transportation Planning Organization** (NWRTPO) continues to “move the region” through inter-agency collaboration.

Bylaws. This Fall, the COG and its regional partners developed and adopted new Bylaws to reflect the roles and responsibilities of the NWRTPO, as well as its relationships with the New Mexico Department of Transportation.

Public Transportation. As in past years, the RTPO evaluated and ranked public transportation applications under three service categories:

- Public Transit;
- Elderly & Handicapped; and
- Job Access & Reverse Commute.

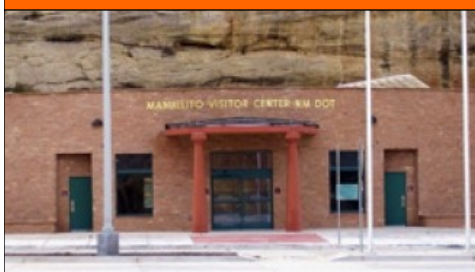
Applicant presentations were made to the RTPO by 6 public transportation providers from around the region, focusing on the merits and needs of their programs. The RTPO then evaluated the applications based on both written and verbal presentations and submitted its rankings to DOT’s Transit & Rail Division. DOT will use the scores to adjust funding amounts for the local public transportation providers in the upcoming fiscal year.

Scenic Byway. At long last, the long reported Federal Highway Administration grant to purchase Interpretive Kiosks for the *Trail of the Ancients Scenic Byway* has been awarded, and implementation is underway. RTPO Planner Bob Kuipers and TOA Scenic Byway Association President Tom Kennedy met with NMDOT staff on steps for a formal bidding process. The kiosks will



Above: Northwest Visitors Center in Grants, NM

Below: Manuelito Visitors Center



be placed at the **Northwest Visitors Center** in Grants and the **Manuelito Visitors Center** west of Gallup along I-40.

NM 118. The *Tribal Infrastructure Fund (TIF)* planning grant from the New Mexico Indian Affairs Department has now gone through the Navajo Nation’s SAS process. The grant, which was awarded to **Churchrock Chapter** and will include assistance from the Navajo Nation Capital Improvement Office, will pay for a feasibility study on NM118, the frontage road east of Gallup that has become increasingly unsafe and congested. The feasibility



Above: NM118 near Churchrock, NM

study project will be subcontracted to **McKinley County** as project lead and will examine rights-of-way and clearances needed to bring the project to construction readiness.

Federal Lands Access—NM 400.

A recent informative webinar on *MAP-21 Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP)* was held in late October. The FLAP Program (formerly “Public Lands Roads”) will receive funding under the new “MAP-21” transportation bill. Upon NoFA from the DOT, COG will prepare an application for these funds for road improvements on **NM 400** from Fort Wingate to McGaffey.

Federal Audit. Fiscal responsibility is always important, even in transportation planning. As such, a **state-wide RPO/RTPO audit** will be conducted over the next 2 years. All RTPOs managed by the COGs state-wide will be preparing for this audit by ensuring all electronic and hard copy files and essential program records are in order.

Long-Range Transportation Plan (LRTP). The State’s 7 RPO’s are gearing up for an update of their **Long Range Transportation Plans (LRTP)**, which will guide regional transportation development and contribute to the State’s LRTP, as required by Federal law and regulation.

Local Technical Assistance Program (LTAP). Our RTPO members continue to benefit from NMDOT’s **Local Technical Assistance Program (LTAP)**. Recent training programs covered **Project Management and Traffic Count** training.

Important Dates:

01/11/2013:
Threshold Compliance:

02/15/2013:
Applications Due:

Early May 2013:
Application Hearings:

Late May 2013:
Allocation of Funds:

Mid-June 2013:
Implementation Workshop:

Community Development Block Grant Applications

It's that time of year again! The 2013 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Application process for Construction Projects is currently underway. The Local Government Division's annual CDBG Application Workshop was held in early November, and applications are due in February 2013.

All projects must meet one of the CDBG National Objectives: Low/Moderate Income (LMI) Beneficiaries; Prevention or Removal of Slum & Blight, or Urgent Need.

Eligible applicants for CDBG construction grants include counties and incorporated municipalities and special districts are eligible for planning grants. *[Note: as an MSA/entitlement city, Farmington is not eligible for Small Cities CDBG funding through the State, and tribal governments also receive CDBG funding directly from HUD.]*

For Small Cities CDBG funding, all projects must be listed on the applying entity's current Infrastructure Capital Improvement Plan (ICIP). And for maximum points in the rating and ranking process, the project should be aligned with a current Comprehensive Plan.

Last year, the Community Development Council allocated \$10,107,981 in CDBG grant awards.

Out of 42 applications, only 23 were awarded. HUD's allocation to New Mexico is set at \$8.4 million, a 16% reduction in CDBG funding.

Local entities planning on applying for a CDBG grant must meet Threshold by January 11, 2013. In order to meet Threshold, the following must be complete:

- No open projects & all findings/concerns cleared
- Current fiscal year's operating budget must be approved
- All Financial quarterly/ monthly reports must be current
- Current audit(s) must be submitted to State Auditor

According to State staff, many of last year's applicants who were not awarded were faulted for improper public participation processes. So, applicants must ensure the following to keep your grant application from being disqualified:

- 10-days notice of public hearings
- Must be advertised in the Non-legal section of newspaper
- Posting notice in a minimum of 3 different places

At the public hearing (if held with other public meetings):

- Submit separate public hearing minutes
- Ensure a separate Sign-in Sheet

- Ensure Adjournment between regular council meetings and the public hearing.
- Ensure an updated Public Participation Plan (update annually).

If a Survey is necessary to demonstrate LMI threshold, the following must be performed:

- Request approval of methodology from LGD prior to surveying
- Receive approval from LGD
- Conduct Surveys (mail, door-to-door, etc.)
- Submit Survey to LGD for approval

Other important topics covered at the LGD workshop:

- local matches (5% for Rural & 10% for Non-Rural);
- Leveraging funds;
- an updated Environmental Review (less than 5 years);
- Secured Professional Services (Contact must be less than 4 years and state for "CDBG");
- an Asset Management Plan;
- Training on how "User's Fees" and rates are developed; and,
- recent/updated Plans & Specifications and/or a recent Preliminary Engineering Report (PER).



Zuni Mountains Trail Project Goes Public

The Mt. Taylor Ranger District of Cibola National Forest and Grasslands and the Zuni Mountain Trail Partnership are in the early planning stages of developing a system of mountain bike and hiking trails in the Zuni Mountains. The goal of this collaborative effort is to enhance forest and watershed health and to increase the amount of non-motorized trails for the public to enjoy.

The Mt. Taylor Ranger District held three public open houses to inform the public about this exciting project and solicit input. At the open houses in Grants, Gallup and Ramah, staff answered questions and accepted comments about the project.

Currently, SWCA Environmental Consultants have been contracted by McKinley County to perform NEPA planning work through *Secure Rural Schools Title II monies* provided by Cibola and McKinley counties. Completion of the planning phase is anticipated for September 2013. The COG is an active partner and facilitator in the ZMTF.



Adventure Gallup & Beyond Gets to Share its Story with the Mountain Bike World

October 11, 2012 – Santa Fé, NM

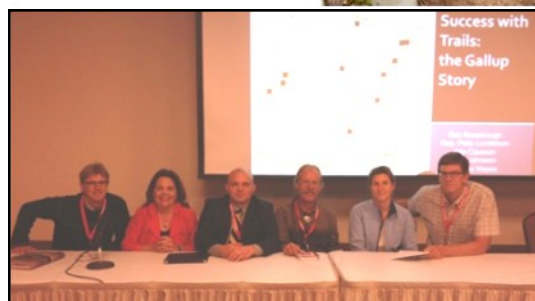
For close to 15 years, the Northwest New Mexico Council of Governments has led the “Adventure Gallup” initiative to develop and market Gallup as an international adventure tourism destination. Recently, big-time recognition was bestowed on these efforts. Based on a COG proposal, the International Mountain Biking Association (IMBA) invited a contingent from Gallup to present its story and its model to the world.

This year’s IMBA World Summit was held in October in Santa Fé. The presentation described the important steps that Gallup has taken to build a broad assets-based approach and implement the strategy of developing adventure tourism as an economic driver. The Summit provided connections and reflections on moving forward with the initiative. The group saw the huge opportunity to make the Zuni Mountains region the Southwest’s premier single-track trail system.

Adventure Gallup & Beyond, a local non-profit organization, is now focused on gaining IMBA’s seal of approval as a world-renowned “Ride Center” mountain biking destination.



2012 World Summit



Adventure Gallup presenters at IMBA Conference
(L to R: Dr. Peter Tempest, Rep Lundstrom, Olin Clawson, Karl Lohmann, Lindsay Mapes, Bob Rosebrough)

Economic Census 2012

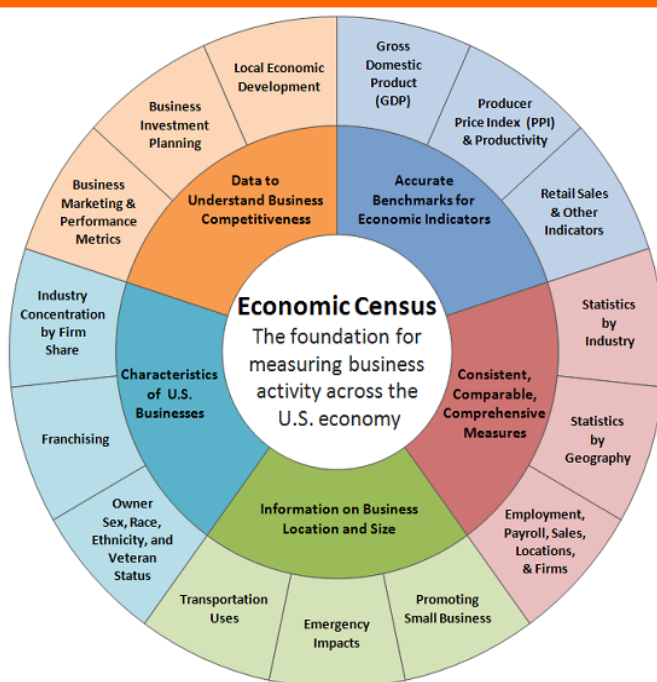
The Economic Census is the US Government's official 5-year measure of American business and the economy. It is conducted by the U.S. Census Bureau, and **response is required by law**.

Forms were sent out beginning in October 2012 through December 2012 and were sent to more than 4 million businesses, including large, medium and small companies representing all U.S. locations. Nearly every industry in the private, non-farm economy, and every geographic area of the U.S. will receive a census form. The number of businesses with paid employees of four or more here in Northwest New Mexico that are expected to receive a Form:

- 1,700 in Farmington-San Juan County,
- 690 in Gallup-McKinley County, and
- 210 in Grants-Cibola County

Note: The smallest businesses are not sent a form. Business owners are asked to provide a range of operational and performance data for their companies. **Forms must be returned by February 13, 2013** and first results are expected to be published by December 2013. Some businesses may also respond electronically.

The Economic Census provides detailed statistics that are important for industries and communities. Local governments, economic development organizations, chambers of commerce, and businesses rely on this information for economic development, business decisions, and strategic planning. Analysts at the local level will use Economic Census data to determine where they have a comparative advantage to attract new businesses. They can also analyze industry sectors, entrepreneurship, and competitiveness, and forecast demand for skilled labor. The



local industries can anticipate needs and training for the local workforce and identify and promote local clusters of economic activity. Local governments may use the data to assist in emergency preparedness by estimating the economic impact of disasters and prioritize responses or in community development utilize information in evaluating how economic development impacts infrastructure such as roads or water and public services like fire departments and law enforcement. There are many more uses for data that is derived from the Economic Census.

For more information about the Economic Census go to:
www.business.census.gov



Northwest New Mexico Council of Governments

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**“Leading the Field
to Empower Communities
& Move the Region
for 40 years”**

Important Dates	Date	Time	Place
Statewide RPO Roundtable	November 29, 2012	-	Silver City
NewMARC Meeting	December 6, 2012	-	Carlsbad
NWRPO Meeting	December 12, 2012	10:00 AM	TBA
CDBG Threshold Deadline	January 11, 2013	-	-
New Mexico Legislature Opening Day	January 15, 2013	-	Santa Fe
McKinley County-Gallup Day at the Legislature	February 7, 2013	-	Santa Fe
Capital Outlay Funding Requests Due	February 11, 2013		Santa Fe
CDBG Applications Due	February 15, 2013	5:00 PM	Santa Fe
COG Board Meeting	February 27, 2013	-	Cibola County
NADO Washington Policy Conference	March 11-13, 2013	-	Arlington, VA

Notes from the Director...

Dear Friends,

Your Council of Governments is concluding its 40th Anniversary year, with appreciation for the great work accomplished by COG leaders and staff gone before, and great hope for the future.

Emerging as we are from the Thanksgiving season, I want you all to know my appreciation and gratitude for the support and leaderships of the COG Board of Directors, our local government members/owners, and our many partners throughout the region, the state and the country. And a special thanks to our former Executive Director **Patty Lundstrom**, on whose 25 years of executive leadership we stand as our foundation for the future.

I am especially grateful for the hard work, perseverance and loyalty of the COG staff: our Deputy Director **Evan Williams**; Planners **Bob Kuipers** and **Prestene Garnenez**; Finance/HR Manager **Teresa Mecale**; Executive Secretary **Bebe Sarmiento**; Finance/Admin Assistant **Martina Whitmore**; and Office Assistant **Vanessa Sky**. They are the heart and soul of The Work, and are certainly the core of my COG team and family, without whom it just couldn't get done!

The Nation, and our State, and our Region are challenged by a convulsing economy, in which the public spending patterns of the past are contracting — and in some cases disappearing — right before our eyes.

Many communities and regions in the country are beginning to experience some of the economic challenges that we in northwestern New Mexico are all too familiar with: high unemployment; high poverty rates; and the social challenges that accompany those scenarios.

Remarkably, the COGs are actually in a strategically important position to be of even greater assistance going forward: helping Federal and State government deliver resources and programs more efficiently; and helping local communities and the region as a whole to set a proactive course and achieve new success on our own terms.

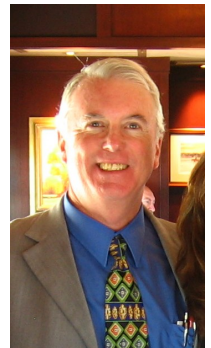
The COG staff and I are ready for the challenge and the opportunity. More specifically, we believe that now is the time to move boldly into the future, even as we shore up and re-size our local budgets.

We're on the Web!
www.nwnmcog.com

Banding together as a region — that's the ticket! Forging new partnerships, tackling the tough issues, working across boundaries and cultures, and achieving breakthroughs— "to boldly go where no one has gone before!"

Here's to the journey,

Jeff Kiely
Executive Director



**THE COG STAFF wishes
you Safe and Happy
Holidays!!**