



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
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Hard Work Pays Off for Labor Day

NM Transportation Commission Awards \$52M in Critical Local & Tribal Projects

Santa Fe, NM – On August 30th, the New Mexico Transportation Commission approved just a little over \$52 million worth of local and tribal transportation projects throughout the State of New Mexico. A special call for projects was announced in April, and the Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs), Regional Transportation Planning Organizations (RTPOs), and New Mexico Department of Transportation (NMDOT) reviewed applications from various entities throughout the State. Ultimately, NMDOT Cabinet Secretary Ricky Serna provided a final list of recommendations to the Commission for approval. The NMDOT received over \$244 million in applications statewide and selected priority projects for award totaling \$52 million. Special thanks to our District 5 Commissioner Tom Taylor and District 6 Commissioner Charles Lundstrom for their support and advocacy for these funds.

Projects funded in Northwest New Mexico and the counties of Cibola, McKinley, and San Juan included:

| District | Entity | Project Title | State | Entity | Total |
|--------------|--------------------|--|--------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| 5 | City of Bloomfield | Bergin Lane Reconstruction | \$902,500 | \$47,500 | \$950,000 |
| 5 | City of Farmington | San Juan Blvd Resurfacing Phase II | \$1,054,500 | \$55,500 | \$1,110,000 |
| 5 | Town of Kirtland | US 64/Road 6100 Lighting Project | \$836,000 | \$44,000 | \$880,000 |
| 6 | Cibola County | CR1 Marquez Road Improvements and Bridge Replacement | \$2,610,000 | \$130,500 | \$2,740,500 |
| 6 | City of Gallup | Aztec Avenue Rehabilitation | \$1,045,000 | \$52,250 | \$1,097,250 |
| 6 | Village of Milan | Willow Drive and Pinon Street Improvements Phase I | \$722,190 | \$36,110 | \$758,300 |
| TOTAL | | | \$7,170,190 | \$365,860 | \$7,536,050 |

The Northwest New Mexico RTPO continues to request investments from basic transportation needs to catalytic projects that will spur economic development diversification for our regional economy to transition from boom-bust to robust and create quality jobs where people are rooted. Our Regional Transportation Planning Organization (RTPO) and its local and tribal officials underscore the regional needs starting with getting people out of the mud by transforming community corridors from dirt to all-weather surfaces. Also, replacing critical and failing bridges in rural communities and elimination of at-grade crossings and aging rail infrastructure that contributes to derailments. Next, investment in bridges and crossings needed to reconnect communities and promote community and economic development as well as freight routes including the improvement of Interstate 40 and alternative fueling nodes. Finally, concentrating on creating safe streets and roads for all to decrease fatalities, injuries, crashes, and near misses at hot spots, and strategic investments in trail systems, alternative transportation and multi-modal projects, transit and airports throughout our region.

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About Transportation Project Fund

Current funding was appropriated by the New Mexico Legislature and signed into law by Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham. This program was created based on a 2019 bill carried by Representatives Patricio Ruiloba (D-12, Bernalillo) and Patricia Lundstrom (D-9, McKinley & San Juan), which created the Local Government Transportation Project Fund that allows the State to invest in a wide range of local transportation project types, at all stages of readiness, and only requires a minimum local match. The program was revised to allow tribal participation, and in the 2021 Legislative Session a bill carried by Senator Bobby Gonzales was passed and signed to use motor vehicle excise tax to fund the program annually at about \$40M. Eligible projects are allowed in the following categories: (1) environmental and other studies; (2) planning; (3) design; and (5) acquisition of rights of way necessary for development of transportation infrastructure, which includes, highways, streets, roadways, bridges, crossing structures and parking facilities, including all areas for vehicular, transit, bicycle or pedestrian use for travel, ingress, egress, and parking. The program requires a 5% local match without a hardship waiver.

Past Program Awards

Over the last five years, our region has received \$65,361,758 in transportation investments from this innovative funding program. Since the program's inception, the northwest region has been awarded the following for critical local and tribal roads and bridges:

| Year | # of Projects | Amount |
|------|---------------------|--------------|
| 2019 | 14 | \$12,912,847 |
| 2020 | No awards this year | |
| 2021 | 17 | \$22,415,163 |
| 2022 | 10 | \$19,747,334 |
| 2023 | 7 | \$10,286,414 |

About Northwest New Mexico Council of Governments

Northwest New Mexico Council of Governments (NWNMCOG) is a 52-year-old regional development organization (RDO) recognized and empowered by the State of New Mexico and the US Economic Development Administration.

We serve the entire three-county region of Cibola, McKinley, and San Juan counties and the communities and tribes therewithin to improve community and economy for the region and its people. The NWNMCOG is association of nine local governments governed by a Board of Directors unified by the belief that we are stronger together and only united can we advance regional opportunities and tackle regional challenges from sustainable water supply to strategic infrastructure, and to foster community and economic development.

The NWNMCOG facilitates the Northwest Regional Transportation Planning Organization (RTPO) under contract with New Mexico Department of Transportation.

For more information about NWNMCOG, visit www.nwnmco.org