

N.W. Regional Transportation Plan Update

September 9, 2020

Robert Kuipers



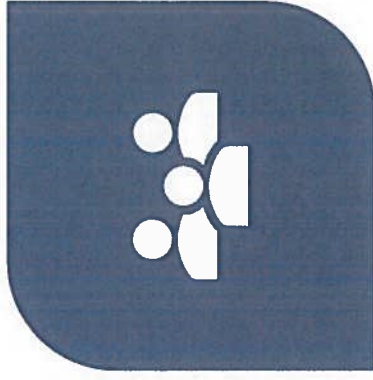
Timeline

- June 10 & July 8 Virtual RTPO meetings – members were presented with the FY2020 RTP update process and schedule, along with the NWNMCOG – NWRTPO website location at which to review the current Regional Transportation Plan (RTP), and requested to submit any of their recommendations for updates. Two "Update process / schedules" were emailed to members and stakeholders outlining sections and page numbers of the current RTP along with guidance on update actions.
- Mid-July COG staff distributed / emailed a survey to 22 RTPO members and 62 regional stakeholders to provide an efficient option for them to recommend updates to the current NWRTPO Regional Transportation Plan.
- July - September - staff worked to update the RTP and incorporate recommendations from RTPO members, stakeholders and the general public, with a goal of completing by the end of September for member, stakeholder and public review.
- September - October - Staff worked to finalize the NWRTPO Regional Transportation Plan for approval and authorization at the October RTPO meeting.
- Thinking ahead to consider future transportation priorities and related infrastructure maintenance or development, is much more cost effective and efficient, than solving one crisis after another! For this reason the NWRTPO updates it's RTP annually, and undertakes a more comprehensive update every five years, in sync. with the NMDOT's major Long Range Transportation Plan update.

Public Participation



**UPDATED WORKING GROUP LIST OF
KEY REGIONAL STAKEHOLDERS**



**SURVEY OF RTPO
MEMBERS, STAKEHOLDERS AND THE
PUBLIC**

Stakeholder Working Group

Sector/Stakeholder Group	Members	Phone	Email
Public Transportation	Tommy Mirns – Gallup Express	505-722-0777	director@gallupexpress.com
	Marcus Tulley / Florinda Lynch – Navajo Transit	928-729-4002 / 4108	marcustulley@navajo-nsn.gov
	Melissa Chavez – Rockin' 66 Express	505-290-2469	rockin66@vilagcofmlan.com
	Ramona Dillard – Laguna Shaa srika Transit	505-552-5741	rdillard@pol-nsn.gov
	Todd Naktewa – Zuni Ashiwi Transit	505-782-7288	Todd.Naktewa@ashiwi.org
	?? – Farmington Red Apple Transit	505-325-3409	
	Jeff Bond – McKinley County School Bus Admin.	505-721-1147	jbond@gmcs.org / jbond@gmcs.k12.nm.us
	Jeri Gnodle – Cibola County School Bus Admin.	505-285-2781	jernane.gnodle@gcs.k12.nm.us
	Billy Huish – San Juan / Farmington School Bus Admin.	505-599-8623	bhuish@fms.k12.nm.us
	Billy Moore – McKinley County Commission & COG Board Chair	505-879-6407	bmoore@co.mckinley.nm.us
Policy / Elected Officials	Glolean Todacheene – San Juan County Commission & COG Board 1 st Vice Chair	505-334-9481	gtodacheene6699@gmail.com
	Martha Garcia – Cibola County Commission & COG Board 2 nd Vice Chair	505-775-7110	MGarcia@ramahnavajo.org
	Butch Mathews – M&R Trucking Co.	505-326-5541	bmathews@mrrtrucking.com
	T. Greg Merrion – Merrion Oil & Gas	505-324-5900	tgreg@merrion.biz
	Tom Taylor – DOT District 5 (San Juan County)	505-325-8941	tom@tomtaylor.net
	Charles Lundstrom – DOT District 6 (McKinley & Cibola)	505-722-4160	lundstrom11@msn.com
	Larry Maynard – Dist. 6 Engineer	505-980-2657	Larry.Maynard@state.nm.us
	JoAnn Garcia – NWRTPD Liaison	505-240-1669	JoAnn.Garcia2@state.nm.us
	Paul Brasher – Dist. 5 Engineer	505-995-7786	Paul.Brasher@state.nm.us
	James Mexia – DOT Dist. 5	505-995-7786	James.Mexia@state.nm.us
BPE Representation	Stephanie Medina – DOT Dist. 5	505-995-7786	Stephanie.Medina@state.nm.us
	Attila Balty – Nat. Park Service – Rec. Trails	505-270-5920	attila_balty@nps.gov
	Shannon Glendenning – BPE Coordinator, NMDOT	505-231-4300	Shannon.Glendenning@state.nm.us
	Maggie Moore – RTP Coordinator, NMDOT	505-470-4705	Maggie.Moore@state.nm.us
	Anna Larson – Cibola County	505-285-2555	alarson@co.cibola.nm.us
	Carrie House – NWNMCOG Zuni Mtn. Trails Oversight	505-722-4327	chouse@nwnmco.org
	Daniel Hill – Director, Steve Danske Deputy Dir. – San Juan Parks	505-325-5415	Royce.Schachu@ashiwi.org / Roxann.Hughte@ashiwi.org
	Pueblo of Zuni: Royce Gchachu / Roxann Hughte	505-782-7116	blherrerat@pol-nsn.gov / rslow@pol-nsn.gov
	Pueblo of Laguna: Brandon Herrera / Gaylord Slow	505-552-1218	ddeutsawe@poamall.org / RUConcho@poamall.org
	Pueblo of Acoma: Dave Deutsawe / Raymond Concho Jr.	505-552-5190	jlloe@navalodot.org / kbedonle@navalodot.org
Tribal Representation	Navajo Nation (New Mexico): Larry Joe, Karen Bedonie	Larry: 928-640-1657 Karen: 505-371-8389	ShaneLewis@ramahnavajo.org
	Ramah Navajo: Shane Lewis, Trina Martine	505-775-3264	TrinaMartine@ramahnavajo.org

Airline Travel	<p>Four Corners Airport – Farmington, NM – Michael Lewis Gallup Municipal Airport – Jay Brunner Grants/Milan Municipal Airport – Raymond Jenkins McKinley County Health Alliance – Rhonda Berg State Dept. of Health NW Office – Christina Morris City Manager & Cibola Health Council – Laura Jaramillo San Juan County Public Health – Janine Emery</p>	<p>505-598-1395 505-863-5501 505-287-4700 505-863-3828 505-556-0504 505-287-7927 505-327-4461</p>	<p>mlewis@fimt.nm.org jbrunner@flywise.com airport@grantsnm.gov Rhonda.Berg@pmsnm.org Christina.Morris@state.nm.us manager@grantsnm.gov Janine.Emery@state.nm.us</p>
Economic Development	<p>Cibola Econ. Dev. Foundation – Eileen Yarborough Eastern Navajo RBD0 - Edger Tohtsoni 4-Corners Economic Development – (Ray Hagerman?-x1) Navajo Div. of Econ. Dev. - Anthony Perry N.M. Economic Development Dept. – Lorraine Ruggles Pinnacle Bank – Tommy Haws Grants State Bank – Clement Sanchez Peter Koepfel – MPO Officer Kathryn Leys – MPO Assoc. Planner June Markle – MPO Admin. Assistant Evan Williams – Director Robert Kuipers – Transportation Planner San Juan: Hank Adair – Electric Director - Farmington Gallup: Water & Sanitation – Dennis Romero Gallup: Electric – John Wheeler Gallup: Solid Waste – Adhian Marrufo Grants: Water – Melissa Lopez Farmington Conv. & Visitors Bureau - Tonya Stinson / Ingrid Gilbert</p>	<p>505-287-6685 505-905-6400 505-566-3702 928-871-6504 505-490-7662 505-722-4411 505-285-6611 505-599-1449 505-599-1992 505-599-1466 505-722-4327 505-722-4327 505-599-1160 505-863-1207 505-863-1298 505-863-1212 505-287-7927 ext. 2015 505-326-7602</p>	<p>elleency@gmail.com easternbizdev@yahoo.com Awaiting response tperrynnded12@gmail.com Lorraine.L.Ruggles@state.nm.us tommy.haws@plnnbank.com csanchez@bbkbank.com pkoeppel@fimt.nm.org kleys@fimt.nm.org jmarkle@fimt.nm.org ewilliams@nwmnccog.org rkuipers@nwmnccog.org hadair@fimt.nm.org dromero@gallupnm.gov lwheeler@gallupnm.gov amarufo@gallupnm.gov mlopez@grantsnm.gov Tonya@FarmingtonNM.org Ingrid@FarmingtonNM.org lazarz@gallupnm.gov tobyd.marthez@state.nm.us arvaltmcabe@discovernavajo.com</p>
Finance / Banking			
Farmington MPO			
N.W.COG / RTPO			
Utilities			
Tourism	<p>Gallup Tourism Manager – Jennifer Lazarz El Malpais Visitor Center – Nat. Park Svc. (x1) Manuelito Visitor Center – NM Tourism – Toby Martinez Navajo Tourism Dept. – Arval McCabe Acoma Sky City Cultural Center (Director) closed (x1) Pueblo of Laguna – no Tourism / Visitor Dept. Pueblo of Zuni – Tourism Dept. Neala Krueger – NMDOT Liaison Ron Shutva – NMDOT Tribal Liaison District 6 – JoAnn Garcia, Bill Santiago District 5 – James Mexia, Stephanie Medina</p>	<p>505-863-1227 505-876-2783 505-905-4440 928-810-8501 505-552-7861 505-782-7238 505-231-2652 505-827-5547 J.G. – 505-240-1669 B.S. – 505-290-9631 505-995-7786</p>	<p>tourism@ashlwi.org Neala.Krueger@state.nm.us Ron.Shutva@state.nm.us JoAnn.Garcia2@state.nm.us Bill.Santiago@state.nm.us James.Mexia@state.nm.us Stephanie.Medina@state.nm.us</p>
NMDOT			
NWRTPO Members	All NWRTPO members will be contacted for input		

SurveyMonkey Key Results

- Less than half of survey respondents actually reviewed the Regional Transportation Plan
- 45% of respondents felt that transportation quality is better than 5 years ago; 55% were indifferent.
- 55% of respondents felt that regional highways have improved; 22% were indifferent, and another 22% felt that regional highway conditions have not improved.
- 45% of respondents felt that NMDOT and our Counties are maintaining transportation infrastructure well; 33% were indifferent, and 22% felt that maintenance was insufficient.
- 44% of respondents felt that NMDOT is planning future transportation investments well; 33% were indifferent, and 22% felt NMDOT was not investing well.
- 55% of respondents felt they had good access to transportation options, 22% were indifferent and 22% felt they did not have good access.
- 25% of respondents were satisfied with our region's pavement conditions; 13% were indifferent, and 62% were dissatisfied with our regions pavement conditions.
- 22% of respondents were pleased with our region's traffic congestion levels, 44% were satisfied, 12% were indifferent and 22% were dissatisfied.
- 57% of respondents were satisfied with Winter and general roadway maintenance; 29% were indifferent, and 14% were dissatisfied.
- 50% of respondents were satisfied with regional highway safety; 38% were indifferent and 12% were dissatisfied.
- 22% of respondents were satisfied with multi-modal bike and pedestrian options; 33% were indifferent, 33% were dissatisfied, and 11% were very dissatisfied.
- 14% of respondents were satisfied with public transportation options and availability; 57% were indifferent, 14% were dissatisfied, and 14% were very dissatisfied.
- 88% of respondents prefer and primarily use personal vehicles for work, school or general transport almost all of the time, and 12% use personal vehicles most of the time.
- Absolutely no respondents car pool; 12% use transit, 25% walk or use a bicycle.
- 75% of respondents have a 10 mile or less commute to work or school, and 25% have a 30 mile or less daily commute.
- Respondents feel future transportation investments in a) bicycle infrastructure and trails / facilities rank high; b) public transportation ranks high; reducing freight congestion ranks high; economic development transportation investment ranks high; improving transportation system resiliency ranks high; and funding highway facilities ranks exceptionally high; investment for non-highway infrastructure and services ranks high;
- Respondents were very favorable for gas tax increases for transportation investments. Respondents had a mixed 50/50 response to increasing vehicle registration fees or sales tax or state general funds for transportation investments.
- Respondents were generally favorable toward NMDOT issuing more bonds to pay for transportation investments.



SurveyMonkey Key Results

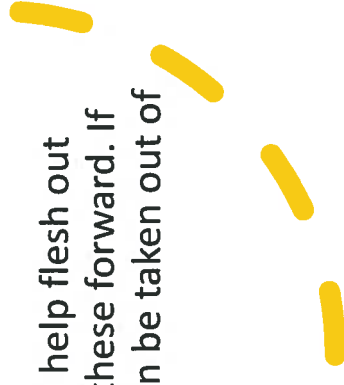


Key Result Conclusions:

Based on these responses it appears RTPO members and regional stakeholders are generally satisfied with our transportation infrastructure and services; although there is mounting concern expressed regarding pavement conditions. It appears that interest is growing for multi-modal options and trails for pedestrians and bicycles. The vast majority of our residents use personal vehicles and have a 10 to 30 mile commute to work, school and services. Respondents favor transportation investments in multimodal infrastructure, public transportation, economic opportunities, system maintenance and resilience, improving regional highways and general roadway infrastructure, and reducing freight congestion. Respondents favor gas tax increases and bond funding for transportation investments, but are less favorable toward using vehicle registration fees, sales tax, or state general funds.

Suggested Updates

- Minor Narrative Changes and Updates
- Add Opportunity Zone information to Appendix
- Update Resiliency Sections relating to COVID-19 and other pandemics
- Update Transit and Safety statistics
- Review Goals and Implementation Actions:
 - Goal actions that have not been moved forward need evaluation as to whether they are still relevant and important to our region.
 - If still important, we will ask the RTPO to help flesh out action plans and realistic steps to move these forward. If no longer important or relevant these can be taken out of our Regional Transportation Plan.



Action Items Review: Review Goal implementation strategies progress and discuss their importance to continue or delete; and what actions are needed to move them forward.

- **Goal #1 – Operate with Transparency and Accountability:**
 - Develop governing principles for collection, management and sharing of data across all participating agencies and jurisdictions.
 - Commence an annual report on what's getting accomplished in the Regional Transportation Plan; include information on which activities correlate to other regional plans (NMLRTP, CEDS, ICIP, CDBG – etc.) (check progress quarterly)
 - Assess and report progress for all active RTIPR projects across all participating jurisdictions on the COG - RTPO website
 - Continue to foster cross-jurisdictional and cross-organizational (ie schools, health and economic agencies – etc.) coordination and collaboration for necessary transportation maintenance and development.
- **Goal #2 – Improve Safety for All System Users:**
 - Review and coordinate follow-up on recent Road Safety Audits, along with data sharing to monitor high incidence accident areas across participating jurisdictions and agencies, and report progress on strategies developed to share data and finance and implement safety improvement recommendations.
 - Review the NMDOT Strategic Highway Safety Plan and Systematic Safety Process along with regional (Municipal, County and Tribal) Safety Plans to identify key regional issues, and develop inter-agency / cross-jurisdictional collaboration to address issues and move plans forward. Considerations should include freight traffic, railroad crossings, multimodal interface, livestock and wildlife, law enforcement and emergency response, and transportation infrastructure accommodations.
- **Goal #3 – Preserve and Maintain Our Transportation Assets for the Long-Term:**
 - Develop an inventory and GIS data base of our region's transportation assets including current condition and maintenance needs; followed by an Asset Management Plan supported by "Life Cycle Cost Analysis." (assistance from *Carrie*). Engage assistance in identifying and tracking from municipal and County Road Departments.
 - Consider a cooperative agreement with NMDOT for corridors under their responsibility, that would allow more efficient emergency repairs from County or Municipal Road Crews at critical places or for critical infrastructure. (p. 53 – strategy 3.4 first bullet under NMDOT)
- **Goal 4 – Provide Multimodal Access & Connectivity for Community Prosperity:**
 - Have the NWRTPO collaborate with the three county school districts to prioritize rural school bus routes (and bridge) problems that need mitigation, and work with local transportation agencies and NMDOT on strategies to address these along with potential funding sources – based on a prioritized process.
 - Have RTPO members consult their respective local county and tribal governments for multimodal access priorities and locations and work with these governments and the NMDOT to develop funding strategies for development based on a prioritized list and with ADA compliance consideration.
 - Discuss with RTPO members where interpretive guiding materials and signage, along with pull-outs and rest areas might benefit tourism and safety within our region. Give consideration to freight controls on corridors of interest to our citizens and visitors. Supportive training for RTPO members could include: *TSM&O - Transportation System Management and Operations*; *TDM - Traffic Demand Management models*, and *CSS - Context Sensitive Solutions*.
 - Support Mainstreet Programs and Multi-modal trails and facilities both within communities, and in rural recreational area opportunities (National Parks and Forest areas – etc.) along with bicycle facilities where appropriate.
 - Consider land use and planning when considering future and new transportation infrastructure development around economic opportunities, schools, hospitals, libraries, senior centers, recreational areas and parks. Consider Senior Citizen and disabled mobility needs when planning transportation development in the broader arena of community and rural regions. Engage the RTPO with regional leaders to consider where school bus routes and/or significant rural corridors need maintenance or reconstruction around a prioritized list; in advance of mitigation, consult NMDOT District or Central Expertise for the most cost efficient options where mitigation is needed. Provide adequate information to NMDOT on the condition of high-priority roads / bridges / infrastructure so DOT expertise know what these projects need to address in advance of providing advice.

- **Goal 5 – Respect New Mexico's Cultures, Environment, History & Quality of Life:**
 - Engage the NWRTPD to consider where in transportation development, repairs or maintenance it is important to address quality of life, cultural respect and guidance, scenic byways and mainstreet projects, and multi-modal access for all citizens regardless of age or ability in transportation maintenance and development.
 - Assure that Local and Tribal plans are respected for any area requiring supportive transportation multimodal access; and assure tribal involvement from the start for projects that occur around tribal tourism offerings or various sacred or historic sites within tribal lands.
 - Apply Context Sensitive Solutions guidance when considering development - especially with regard to protecting our tribally sacred as well as cultural, historic and archaeological sites via signage, trails, rules, fencing, penalties, enforcement and monitoring. *(ie hidden cameras or on-site management where appropriate and fiscally feasible)*
 - Prioritize environmental protective practices and infrastructure around wetlands and sensitive lands, along with signage, trails, rules, fencing, penalties, enforcement and monitoring *(as described in the previous bullet)*.
 - Accommodate recreation and tourism in a manner that protects and respects New Mexico's natural assets via signage, scenic site pullouts, trails, picnic tables, restroom facilities, trash cans, periodic maintenance, rules, fencing, penalties, enforcement and monitoring as described in previous bullets, while providing the best experience possible with accommodating infrastructure for our visitors.
 - Support and collaborate with other state or regional agencies such as Tourism, Economic Development, Historic Preservation, Tribal Sovereignty, NM-Mainstreet, Arts and Cultural Districts and other programs for context-sensitive design of transportation supporting infrastructure, and protective enforcement around sensitive lands and sacred sites; providing supportive infrastructure (as stated in the previous bullet) that accommodates all levels of mobility including handicapped and senior citizens.



Next Steps

- Regional Transportation Plan update in progress will be presented at our September 9 meeting.
- Staff will try to finalize the RTP update to present at our October meeting for member approval and authorization.
- This does not provide much more time for RTPO member input, which staff has been requesting for quite some time now.
- Upon RTPO member approval and authorization of the RTP update, there will follow a 20 day comment period for the public, before we can officially publish it.

