

## Meeting Minutes [DRAFT]

Northern Pueblos Regional Transportation Planning Organization (NPRTPO)  
 Regular meeting hosted February 7, 2024 online via zoom and in-person at Santa Fe  
 Business Incubator, 3900 Paseo del Sol, Santa Fe, NM 87507

Commented [SAS1]: February 7, 2024 (the year is important to add for reference).

### NPRTPO Voting Members and Alternates

Name	Entity	Title	Present/Absent
Eric Ulibarri	Los Alamos County	Voting Member	Present
Keith Wilson	Los Alamos County	Alternate	Absent
Dennis Gallegos	Rio Arriba County	Voting Member	Present
Christine Bustos	Rio Arriba County	Alternate	Joined late
Gary Brett Clavio	Santa Fe County	Voting Member	Present
	Santa Fe County	Alternate	Absent
	Taos County	Voting Member	Absent
Jason Silva	Taos County	Alternate	Present
Elijah Mares	City of Española	Voting Member	Absent
Daniel Fresquez	City of Española	Alternate	Absent
Patrick Nicholson	Village of Taos Ski Valley	Voting Member	Present
Anthony Martinez	Village of Taos Ski Valley	Alternate	Absent
John Avila	Village of Taos Ski Valley	Alternate	Absent
French Espinoza	Town of Taos	Voting Member	Present
	Town of Taos	Alternate	Absent
Linda Calhoun	Town of Red River	Voting Member	Absent
Georgiana Rael	Town of Red River	Alternate	Present
Maggie Valdez	Village of Chama	Voting Member	Absent
Will Donohoe	Village of Chama	Alternate	Absent
Jacob LaFore	Village of Questa	Voting Member	Present
Jason Gonzalez	Village of Questa	Alternate	Absent
Paul Castillo	Jicarilla Apache Nation	Voting Member	Absent
Kathryn Valdez	Jicarilla Apache Nation	Alternate	Absent
John Vigil	Pueblo of Nambe	Voting Member	Present
Governor Porter	Pueblo of Nambe	Alternate	Present
Sylvia Armijo	Picuris Pueblo	Voting Member	Present
	Picuris Pueblo	Alternate	Absent
Raymond Martinez	Pueblo of San Ildefonso	Voting Member	Present
Adam Martinez	Pueblo of San Ildefonso	Alternate	Absent
Benny Lujan	Ohkay Owingeh	Voting Member	Absent
Lucia Sanchez	Ohkay Owingeh	Alternate	Present
Suzette Shije (Vice Chair)	Pueblo of Santa Clara	Voting Member	Present
	Pueblo of Santa Clara	Alternate	Absent
Vernon Lujan (Chair)	Pueblo of Taos	Voting Member	Joined late
Reva Suazo	Pueblo of Taos	Alternate	Absent
Randy Vigil	Pueblo of Pojoaque	Voting Member	Present
Janay Chavarria	Pueblo of Pojoaque	Alternate	Absent
Anthony Mortillaro	NCRTD	Voting Member	Absent
Bryce Gibson	NCRTD	Alternate	Present

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**NCNMEDD Staff**

Felicity Fonseca                      Community Development Director  
 Neusa McWilliams                      GIS Planner

**NMDOT Staff and Federal Partners**

Avery Frank                      Community Planner Federal Highway Administration  
 Corwyn Henry                      BIA Southwest  
 Amanda Niño                      District 5 Local Government Road Fund Coordinator  
 Angelica Trujillo                      NMDOT CMAQ/CRP Coordinator  
 Ron Shutiva                      Native American Tribal Liaison, NMDOT - Research Bureau

**Guests**

Anna Brunson                      North Central RTD  
 Debra Chavez                      Taos County  
 Brent Jaramillo                      Taos County  
 Joe Fernandez                      Taos County  
 Loren Bell                      Enchanted Circle Trail Association  
 Governor Porter                      Pueblo of Nambé

**I. Call Meeting to Order**

Vice-Chair Suzette Shije, Santa Clara Pueblo, called the meeting to order at 10:06 AM.

**II. Pledge of Allegiance**

Vice-chair Suzette Shije, Santa Clara Pueblo, led the pledge of allegiance.

**III. Opening Prayer**

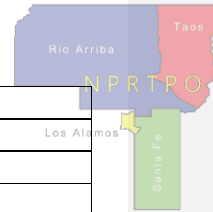
Ron Shutiva, NMDOT Tribal Liaison, provided the opening prayer.

**IV. Welcome and Introductions/Public Comments:**

Vice-Chair Shije asked if there were any public comments. Hearing none, she moved on.

**V. Roll Call:**

Name	Entity	Voting Member or Alternate
Eric Ulibarri	Los Alamos County	Alternate
Christine Bustos	Rio Arriba County	Alternate
Jason Silva	Taos County	Alternate
Jacob LaFore	Village of Questa	Alternate
Patrick Nicholson	Village of Taos Ski Valley	Voting Member
French Espinoza	Town of Taos	Voting Member
Georgiana Rael	Town of Red River	Alternate
Jacob LaFore	Village of Questa	Voting Member



John Vigil	Pueblo of Nambé	Voting Member
Sylvia Armijo	Picuris Pueblo	Voting Member
Raymond Martinez	Pueblo of San Ildefonso	Voting Member
Lucia Sanchez	Ohkay Owingeh	Alternate
Patrick Nicholson	Village of Taos Ski Valley	Voting Member
Suzette Shije, Vice Chair	Pueblo of Santa Clara	Voting Member
Bryce Gibson	NCRTD	Alternate

Felicity Fonseca confirmed that there was a quorum for the meeting.

**VI. Approval of the Agenda:**

Felicity Fonseca proposed to replace Item XI on the agenda, Jemez Pueblo Trails Project, with Review of RAISE application letters of support. The presenter from Jemez Pueblo was unable to join the meeting due to a last-minute conflict. Lucia Sanchez, Ohkay Owingeh, moved to approve the agenda with changes, French Espinoza, Town of Taos, seconded. Vice-Chair Shije asked for a voice vote. The motion passed with all present voting in the affirmative.

**VII. Approval of the Minutes: December 6, Regular Meeting**

Vice-Chair Lujan asked members to review the meeting minutes for January 10, 2024, and asked if the minutes had been cleaned up with comments reviewed. Felicity asked about a conflicting June date, and affirmed that the minutes had been finalized. Bryce Gibson, NCRTD, moved to approve the minutes, Lucia Sanchez, Ohkay Owingeh, seconded. Vice-Chair Shije asked for a voice vote. The motion passed with all present voting in the affirmative.

**VIII. Federal Agency Update**

There were no federal updates.

**IX. State Agency Updates**

James Mexia with NMDOT, no updates. Amanda Nino, NMDOT, put TPF resources in the chat.

**X. NMDOT Updates:**

**XI. Presentation: Scoping for Pueblo of Nambé Improvements Project (John Vigil, Nambé Pueblo)**

Mr. Vigil had some technical issues with internet connection. He finally presented by telephone. Mr. Vigil, Nambé Pueblo, presented on this project:

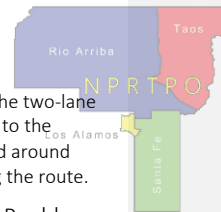
The Pueblo of Nambé (Pueblo) Roads and Transportation Department is proposing 8.01 (42,292.7 linear feet) of roadway reconstruction and widening for Nambé NP 101 from Highway 503 to Nambé Falls in Santa Fe County, New Mexico (See Figure 1 to Figure 3). NP 101, or Poechunu Poe, is a two-lane major collector road with rights-of-way (ROW) that vary from 40 to 100 feet. The Pueblo of Nambé proposes

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road reconstruction and surface improvements which would include a 10-foot widening of the two-lane paved roadway to accommodate a multi-use path along the side of the road, improvements to the parking lot entrance for the Nambé Waterfalls and Lake Recreation Area and paving the road around Nambé Lake. There are also proposed improvements at several culverts and drainages along the route.

Vice Chair Shije asked about the new deadline for comment on this project. The Pueblo had sent out a letter requesting comments from NPR TPO members, the initial letter had a deadline of 1/22/24. Vice-Chair Shije requested that Mr. Vigil set a new deadline and provide an updated letter with adequate time for comment. Mr. Vigil, Nambe Pueblo, indicated they would do this.

**XII. Presentation/Discussion: Rec Trails Program Funding Update(NPR TPO Staff)**

Felicity stated that she did not receive any RTP applications. Village of Questa has indicated they would like to apply, but they have not submitted their materials yet.

**XIII. Discussion: RAISE letters of support for NPR TPO, NCRTD, Taos Pueblo, Village of Taos Ski Valley**

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Vice-Chair Shije indicated what was done in the past was a formal request in writing for a letter of support, with a brief discussion of the project.

- A. Anna Brunson, NCRTD Transit Analyst, presented on behalf of their projects.
  1. NCRTD application 1 is for a \$350,000 planning grant and siting and feasibility study for a Taos Transit Center.
  2. NCRTD application 2 is a mixed planning/construction grant for \$15 million which will focus on first phase of a bus rapid transit system. This was adopted in the long range strategic plan in 2023. Phase 1 includes 7 battery electric buses, siting, design, and development, and acquisition of 7 multi-modal hubs.

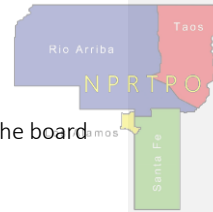
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Vice Chair Shije called for a motion to approve letters of support for the 2 NCRTD RAISE grant requests. Georgiana Rael, Town of Red River, moved, Christine Bustos, Rio Arriba County, seconded. The motion passed with all voting in the affirmative.

Bryce Gibson thanked everyone for their support.

- B. Patrick Nicholson, Village of Taos Ski Valley, presented on behalf of their project. VTSV is resubmitting for the Twining Road Reconstruction project, it is a total project cost of \$13 million. The project consists of a reconstruction of Twining Road going to Kachina Basin, Williams Lake, and Wheeler Peak trailheads. It is a 1.1 mile project and includes lowering the grade, making safety improvements, sidewalks, stormwater drainage, paving first .5 mile among other improvements.

Vice-Chair Shije called for a motion. Bryce Gibson, NCRTD, moved to provide a letter of support for this project, Taos County seconded. The motion passed with all voting in the affirmative. Patrick Nicholson abstained.



Patrick Nicholson expressed that Village of Taos Ski Valley is grateful for the board support.

- C. Vernon Lujan, Taos Pueblo, presented on behalf of their project. In 2007 Taos Pueblo Tribal Council passed resolution to improve community roads, this was called The Five Roads project. Engineering and PSEs were completed in 2019. In 2022, the Pueblo acquired NMDOT TPF funding for phase 1 of Rio Lucero road (one of the roads), and requested CDS funding and received \$4 million for Spider Rock road, second road in project. Another \$2 million is needed for this road. Other 3 roads are Little Deerhorn/Antler, Star Road, and Rotten Tree road which provides access to elementary and early childhood education centers. The request is for \$17 million to do these roads. Will provide access to health center, housing authority and 20 unit subdivision, and other residential areas.

Chair Lujan apologized for not being able to attend meeting today, but had a conflict with a BIA meeting.

Discussion: Patrick Nicholson commends Taos Pueblo on their project. Patrick raised a concern over submitting multiple projects from the NPRTPO in one year. Chair Lujan indicated that the longer the Pueblo waits, the more costly the project will be and the less pertinent the engineering and design will be. French Espinoza, Town of Taos, asked how the funds would be distributed and what the criteria is. There was discussion around what makes a competitive project. Anna Brunson, NCRTD, recommends watching the webinar on the RAISE grant merit criteria. Ron Shutiva, NMDOT Tribal Liaison, encouraged that all entities submit their proposals; whoever has a good quality project is more likely to be funded. Vice-Chair Shije wishes everyone well, and let applicants know have the support of the NPRTPO.

Vice-Chair Shije called for a motion to provide a letter of support for Taos Pueblo RAISE application. Lucia Sanchez, Ohkay Owingeh, moved, Village of Taos Ski Valley seconded. The motion passed with all voting in the affirmative.

- D. **Presentation**/Discussion: State Transportation Project Fund (TPF) Call (NPRTPO Staff)

James Mexia, NMDOT, said that the May 31, 2024 date is the final deadline to submit final, polished, applications. NMDOT likes to preview PFF forms in March or earlier. This is a competitive call. NMDOT will review applications, will assist with descriptions, phasing, estimates, etc. Then each entity presents their projects to NPRTPO, projects are then rated and ranked, and applications are finalized. Questions can be emailed to Amanda Nino, NMDOT LGRF.

Vice-Chair Shije suggests placing this on the agenda for next month. There was discussion around the internal calendar and application process for the NPRTPO TPF process. Brent

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Jaramillo, Taos County, shared a concern that all entities must adhere to the same hard deadline.

James Mexia, NMDOT, expressed that if a project proposal touches NMDOT right of way, NMDOT needs to present it to District management and provide a letter of support. That is why NMDOT wants an adequate timeline for the process.

Vice-Chair Shije encouraged presentations to take place on March 6.

**XIV. NMDOT Updates from District 5, Planning, Tribal Liaison, and LTAP Board**

James Mexia indicated no updates from NMDOT.

Shannon Glendenning in multi-modal bureau is the current contact as Neala Krueger has moved on.

Shannon Glendenning, multi-modal planning bureau, informed everyone that Neala Krueger has moved on and she is the new contact. Also that State of NM ORD Trails+ program has another \$5 million to award prior to 6/30/24. FHWA admin has a new ATIIIP program, which is federal discretionary funding program. Planning Bureau recently adopted a greenhouse gas performance measure. Perf. measure 1-safety targets, PM 2-state of good repair for roadways and bridge conditions, PM 3- freight rates and measures and new Greenhouse Gas performance measure with a declining target.

Patrick Nicholson, Village of Taos Ski Valley shared that the Trails+ funding source is relatively easy to apply for.

Amanda Nino with NMDOT announced TPF final deadline is May 31 and that there will be interim deadlines for rating and ranking.

Ron Shutiva, NMDOT, recommends that local governments phase their projects, with planning and design or road safety audits first. And recommends that budgets are updated for current cost conditions. Tribal entities can use their Tribal TPFs but that does make the project a federal project. Southwest TTAP is hosting annual transportation summit in Arizona. Registration is free.

**XV. NPRTPO Planner/Program Manager Updates and Announcements**

Neusa McWilliams, NCNMEDD GIS Planner, shared that there will be a tribal GIS meeting/workshop on February 21. Tribal members get free access to ARC GIS resources.

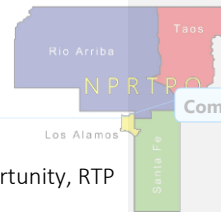
Felicity shared that there will be a new transportation planner Patrick Million starting and will be on-board for the next meeting.

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**XVI. New Business**

- a. Upcoming meeting locations and topics
  - i. **March 6, 2024** - Location: Taos County; Topics: Review TPF opportunity, RTP Presentation, E911 presentation.
  - ii. **April 3, 2024** – Location: Rio Arriba. Location: Topics: ICIP Training/Refresher; TPF Update
- b. Other items from NPRTPO members or the public

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**XVII. Adjourn**

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Christine Bustos, Rio Arriba, moved to adjourn, motion was seconded by French Espinoza, Town of Taos. The meeting was adjourned at 12:10pm.