



Meeting Minutes

Northern Pueblos Regional Transportation Planning Organization (NPRTPO)
Regular meeting hosted on September 7, 2022 (online).

NPRTPO Voting Members and Alternates

Name	Entity	Title	Present/Absent
Eric Ulibarri	Los Alamos County	Voting Member	Absent
Keith Wilson	Los Alamos County	Alternate	Present
Napoleon Garcia	Rio Arriba County	Voting Member	Present
Cathy Martinez	Rio Arriba County	Alternate	Present
Robert Griego	Santa Fe County	Voting Member	Absent
Gary Brett Clavio	Santa Fe County	Alternate	Joined late
Candyce O'Donnell (Chair)	Taos County	Voting Member	Present
Jason Silva	Taos County	Alternate	Present
	City of Española	Voting Member	Absent
Elijah Mares	City of Española	Alternate	Absent
Patrick Nicholson	Village of Taos Ski Valley	Voting Member	Joined late
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	Absent
Lynda Perry	Town of Taos	Alternate	Absent
Linda Calhoun	Town of Red River	Voting Member	Present
Georgiana Rael	Town of Red River	Alternate	Present
Maggie Valdez	Village of Chama	Voting Member	Absent
Will Donohoe	Village of Chama	Alternate	Absent
Dominic Martinez	Village of Questa	Voting Member	Absent
Jason Gonzalez	Village of Questa	Alternate	Absent
Paul Castillo	Jicarilla Apache Nation	Voting Member	Absent
Kathryn Valdez	Jicarilla Apache Nation	Alternate	Absent
Marcus Lopez	Pueblo of Nambé	Voting Member	Absent
Levi Valdez	Pueblo of Nambé	Alternate	Absent
Sylvia Armijo	Picuris Pueblo	Voting Member	Absent
	Picuris Pueblo	Alternate	Absent
	Pueblo of San Ildefonso	Voting Member	Absent
Lillian Garcia	Pueblo of San Ildefonso	Alternate	Present
	Ohkay Owingeh	Voting Member	Absent
Sybil Cota	Ohkay Owingeh	Alternate	Present
Suzette Shije	Pueblo of Santa Clara	Voting Member	Present
	Pueblo of Santa Clara	Alternate	Absent
Vernon Lujan (Vice Chair)	Pueblo of Taos	Voting Member	Joined late
Reva Suazo	Pueblo of Taos	Alternate	Absent
Randy Vigil	Pueblo of Pojoaque	Voting Member	Absent
Janay Chavarria	Pueblo of Pojoaque	Alternate	Absent
Anthony Mortillaro	NCRTD	Voting Member	Absent
Bryce Gibson	NCRTD	Alternate	Present



NCNMEDD/NPRTPO Staff

Paul Sittig	Transportation Planner
Kyla Danforth	Transportation Intern
Christopher Madrid	Community Development Director

NMDOT Staff

Ron Shutiva	Tribal Liaison
Neala Krueger	Urban & Regional Planning Supervisor
Amanda Niño	District 5 Local Government Road Fund Coordinator

Guests

Arlando Teller	Deputy Assistant Secretary of Tribal Affairs, Office of the Secretary, U.S. Department of Transportation
Callie Thomason French	LTAP Program Manager, UNM
Joe Fernandez	Roads Supervisor, Taos County
Debra Baca	Public Works Office Manager, Taos County

I. Call Meeting to Order

Chair Candyce O’Donnell, Taos County, called the meeting to order at 10:02 AM.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

Chair O’Donnell called on Deputy Assistant Secretary Arlando Teller, U.S. DOT, to lead the pledge of allegiance.

III. Opening Prayer

Chair O’Donnell asked Deputy Assistant Secretary Teller to lead the opening prayer.

IV. Welcome and Introductions/Public Comments:

Chair O’Donnell welcomed everyone and asked for all in attendance to introduce themselves, as listed above in the attendance log.

V. Roll Call:

Chair O’Donnell called on Paul Sittig, NCNMEDD, to conduct the roll call.

Name	Entity	Voting Member or Alternate
Keith Wilson	Los Alamos County	Alternate
Napoleon Garcia	Rio Arriba County	Alternate
Bret Clavio	Santa Fe County	Alternate
Candyce O’Donnell, Chair	Taos County	Voting Member
Linda Calhoun	Town of Red River	Voting Member
Lillian Garcia	Pueblo of San Ildefonso	Alternate
Sybil Cota	Ohkay Owingeh	Alternate
Suzette Shije	Pueblo of Santa Clara	Voting Member
Bryce Gibson	North Central RTD	Alternate



Mr. Sittig confirmed that there was a quorum for the meeting.

VI. Approval of the Agenda:

Chair O’Donnell asked for a motion to approve the agenda.

Linda Calhoun, Town of Red River, made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Seconded by Keith Wilson, Los Alamos County. Chair O’Donnell asked for a roll call vote.

Roll Call Vote:

Name	Entity	Vote
Keith Wilson	Los Alamos County	Yes
Napoleon Garcia	Rio Arriba County	Yes
Bret Clavio	Santa Fe County	Yes
Candyce O’Donnell, Chair	Taos County	Yes
Linda Calhoun	Town of Red River	Yes
Lillian Garcia	Pueblo of San Ildefonso	Yes
Sybil Cota	Ohkay Owingeh	Yes
Suzette Shije	Pueblo of Santa Clara	Yes
Bryce Gibson	North Central RTD	Yes

The motion passed unanimously with all members present.

VII. Approval of the Minutes: August 3, 2022, Regular Meeting (online)

Chair O’Donnell asked members to review the August 3, 2022, meeting minutes.

Motion to approve the minutes as presented made by Keith Wilson, Los Alamos County. Second by Suzette Shije, Pueblo of Santa Clara.

Roll Call Vote:

Name	Entity	Vote
Keith Wilson	Los Alamos County	Yes
Cathy Martinez	Rio Arriba County	Yes
Candyce O’Donnell, Chair	Taos County	Yes
Linda Calhoun	Town of Red River	Yes
Dominic Martinez	Village of Questa	Yes
Kathryn Valdez	Jicarilla Apache Nation	Yes
Lillian Garcia	Pueblo of San Ildefonso	Yes
Sybil Cota	Ohkay Owingeh	Yes
Suzette Shije	Pueblo of Santa Clara	Yes
Vernon Lujan, Vice Chair	Pueblo of Taos	Abstain
Bryce Gibson	North Central RTD	Yes



The motion passed unanimously with all members present, with the exception of Vernon Lujan, Pueblo of Taos, who did not respond to the roll call vote.

VIII. Federal Agency Updates

Chair O’Donnell again welcomed Deputy Assistant Secretary Teller to the Northern Pueblos RTPO meeting. Mr. Teller shared a link to [Transportation Funding Opportunities for Tribal Nations](#) PDF (updated May 27, 2022), and he noted that his office is supporting rural communities as well as Tribal entities, and they are talking with a Tribe that is in the self-governance program, and there are three other Tribes who will be starting this process soon. To better support the Tribal and rural communities, his office is hiring two more positions soon, and a new office for Tribal Government Affairs will open in Washington, D.C., in the next four months.

Deputy Assistant Secretary Teller noted that the first cycle of [Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity \(RAISE\) Grants](#) (formerly know as BUILD, and before that, TIGER) had closed, and that the next round would open at the start of calendar year 2023. Mr. Teller also noted that the [Safe Streets and Roads for All \(SS4A\)](#) call for projects would close on September 15, 2022, and to look for the [Bridge Investment Program](#), as well as the National Culvert Removal, Replacement, & Restoration Grant that is forthcoming in the next few weeks (*FHWA anticipates the Notice of Funding Opportunity, or NOFO, will be posted in September or October 2022*). The Deputy Assistant Secretary provided his contact information: 202.770.9255 and Arlando.teller@dot.gov.

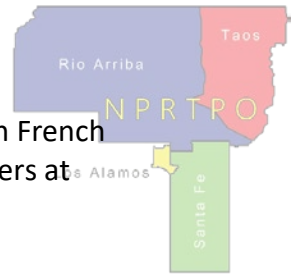
Chair O’Donnell asked Deputy Assistant Teller how the letter of concerns from NPRTPO was received. He said he forwarded the letter to the policy group, but had not yet received a response, assuming they are reviewing grants, but he noted he would follow up.

IX. Presentation: NM-LTAP Center Overview (Callie Thomason French, UNM)

Callie Thomason French, UNM, presented an overview of UNM’s NM-LTAP program, which has been in operation since 2017 as the Local Technical Assistance Program (LTAP) for New Mexico. Ms. Thomason French noted that the LTAP program was started in 1981 as the Rural Technical Assistance Program, then expanded in 1991 to include urban areas, when it was rebranded as LTAP.

Ms. Thomason French noted that the Tribal Technical Assistance Program (TTAP) is returning, now with seven regional centers across the country. While LTAP is open to and supports Tribal entities, TTAP centers are focused on supporting Tribal entities. The TTAP Center supporting Tribal entities in New Mexico will be the Lenea Corporation.

The NM-LTAP Center’s mission is “to provide technology transfer in the surface transportation arena, and to promote surface transportation and worker safety to all New Mexico public works and transportation agencies.” NM-LTAP’s work plan is



developed with the New Mexico division of FHWA and NMDOT. Callie Thomason French is the only full-time employee working for NM-LTAP, with five other staff members at UNM working part-time on NM-LTAP, being:

- Dr. Susan Bogus Halter, NM-LTAP Center Director
- Heather Stephens Jones, Program Coordinator
- Dr. Su Zhang, Geospatial Expert (NM-LTAP instructor)
- Claude Morelli, Transit and Planning Expert (NM-LTAP instructor)
- Ken Cooper, Construction Expert (NM-LTAP instructor)

NM-LTAP trainings fall into four categories: safety, infrastructure management, workforce development, and organizational excellence. Some of these courses can count for professional development hours (PDHs), and certificates of completion are provided. Trainings are provided in-person and online.

NM-LTAP is funded by NMDOT and FHWA, and the annual work plan submitted to both agencies includes a training schedule, based on:

- Availability of instructors
- Need in community
- Alignment with NMDOT/FHWA guidance
- Cost to NM-LTAP/budget

Local and Tribal entities can request trainings, and NM-LTAP will consider the requests within the four criteria above. Courses can be brought to the community, depending on the availability of the instructor.

NM-LTAP has partnered with the Associated Contractors of New Mexico (ACNM) to provide trainings at no cost to the local or Tribal entity.

Upcoming trainings (both online):

- Engineering Economics session 3 (Oct 5, 2022)
- Introduction to GIS (Oct. 22, 2022)

Callie Thomason French provided a tour of the ACNM and NM-LTAP websites, and provided her email addresses: cfrenc@unm.edu (no “h”, not a typo) or ltap@unm.edu .

Tribal and local public agencies can register for ACNM trainings on their website – <https://www.aconm.org/acnm-training/> . Tell ACNM that NM-LTAP sent you and registration will be reduced to \$25 per person.

NM-LTAP website: <https://ltap.unm.edu> with forms of note –

- Register for a scheduled class
- Request a training
- Request heavy equipment training
- Heavy equipment training manual/pamphlet with more on the program
- Request a training certificate

All online classes through NM-LTAP are free.



Heavy equipment trainings are 40 hours, a full week, with about half of the training being in-class, and the second half is on the equipment. Classes are 10 people at most and require the Tribal or local public agency to provide the equipment and a space to practice. Trainings can be for staff from one agency, or different transportation agencies from different municipalities can come together to have more equipment and staff on hand to train. Trainings are \$25 per person. Trainings offered include:

- Backhoe
- Wheel Loaders
- Scraper
- Excavator
- Bulldozer
- Road Grader
- Articulated Haul Trucks
- Skid Steers
- All-Terrain Forklifts

In addition to equipment training, participants will also be taught

- Grade Reading
- Laser Level
- Soils
- Safety
- Site Layout
- Heavy Equipment Maintenance

To host a training, fill out the form and UNM staff will work with you.

Napo Garcia, Rio Arriba County, asked if there was an option for CDL training. Ms. Thomason French said that they have been working to get CDL training but have not been able to find a trainer to come to New Mexico. There's a location in Hobbes, NM, and UNM is looking to get a virtual driving setup that could provide CDL training.

Mr. Garcia noted that NMDOT used to have CDL training with their own examiners. Ms. Thomason French noted that NMDOT has CDL training and some certification in their Roswell office, and NM-LTAP is in talks with NMDOT to see if they can coordinate.

Chair O'Donnell asked who in Hobbes was providing the CDL training, and Ms. Thomason French said it is in their community college, and the program is several weeks long. ([New Mexico Junior College non-degree program offerings](#)). Chair O'Donnell noted that [UNM Taos also has a CDL course](#), but it is somewhat expensive.

Chair O'Donnell asked where the week-long heavy equipment trainings are held. Ms. Thomason French noted that the indoor classrooms are provided by the training site host, along with a projector. The rooms can be a conference room, meeting room, or even a classroom in a school. The agency must also provide their own heavy equipment and the fuel for the machinery. Typically, agencies provide five pieces of equipment, and



it can be a mix of equipment types or all the same type of equipment. The curriculum is tailored to the hosting agency's equipment and their needs.

Chair O'Donnell asked Mr. Sittig to set up a survey to understand which agencies want training, who has equipment to train on, and who would be willing to host, possibly to set up a central training location or locations for the region.

Chair O'Donnell asked about the location of the Lenea Corporation, which will serve New Mexico and Navajo Nation in Arizona. Ms. Thomason French noted that the Lenea Corporation is in Arizona. Deputy Assistant Secretary Teller noted that they are located in Show Low, Arizona, south of I-40. Chair O'Donnell said she would look forward to them presenting to Northern Pueblos RTPO to understand how they can support Tribes in this region.

Chair O'Donnell offered her condolences to Patrick Nicholson, Village of Taos Ski Valley, who joined the meeting, for the loss of the Village's mayor, Neal King.

X. Presentation: Review of FY 2023 TPF awards and deadlines (RTPO Planner)

Paul Sittig presented an overview of the projects awarded FY 2023 Transportation Project Fund (TPF) Funding on August 18, 2022, by the State Transportation Commission. In the NPRTPPO region, those projects were:

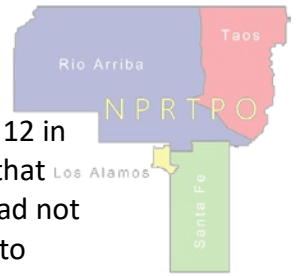
- Taos County – Rio Chiquita Bridge
- Santa Clara Pueblo – Puye Road Repair and Improvement
- Jicarilla Apache Nation – Medicine Way Road Extension Project
- North Central Regional Transit District – Four bus stop improvements on NM-68 between Velarde and Alcalde

Mr. Sittig noted that the deadline to submit Match Waiver cover letters and resolutions to the NMDOT Project Oversight Division (POD) by September 30, 2022, at 5 PM (Mountain time), and questions should be sent to Clarissa Martinez at Clarissa.martinez@state.nm.us or at.

Mr. Sittig reminded members that the call for TPF funding goes out each year in late winter or early spring, with the state legislature having the option to increase the program budget above the \$40 million base budget, and that in the past two years, the legislators did increase funding above \$100 million. Mr. Sittig noted that while projects awarded for FY 2023 ranged from \$60,000 to almost \$5 million, most projects came in around \$1 to \$2 million. Projects running more may be better candidates for federal funding, and Mr. Sittig asked members to discuss such possibilities with him.

Chair O'Donnell noted that Santa Fe County also received funding, and Bret Clavio, Santa Fe County, stated that this project was routed through Santa Fe MPO rather than Northern Pueblos RTPO.

Patrick Nicholson, Village of Taos Ski Valley, asked how the awarded list compared to the list of projects presented to and ranked by NPRTPPO. Mr. Sittig highlighted the four



projects funded for FY 2023 TPF funds, noting that they ranked as #1, 4, 11, and 12 in the list of 14 projects prioritized by the NPRTPO board members, and he noted that NMDOT previously stated that they attempted to give funding to entities who had not been funded in a prior cycle. Mr. Nicholson stated that he did talk with NMDOT to understand how to better scope or present their project that ranked high in prior TPF review by NPRTPO.

Chair O'Donnell suggested phasing the project, and Mr. Nicholson said that NMDOT directed him to present the entirety of the project without phasing. Chair O'Donnell noted that Taos County is also considering phasing their Blueberry Hill project or pursuing federal grants as highlighted by Deputy Assistant Secretary Teller. Mr. Sittig agreed that this is a good path forward, but requires planning to identify and secure the necessary match funding.

Chair O'Donnell recognized Suzette Shije and Santa Clara Pueblo for their FY 2023 TPF award. Ms. Shije said she is excited for the award, and offered to possibly host the NPRTPO meeting in the next year, when she could show the members the project site and the safety concerns that drove this project. Ms. Shije noted the Pueblo also applied for EV Charger funding.

Chair O'Donnell stressed that ADA Transition Plans are necessary for federal funding, and that you can use the NMDOT template, which she used to develop the County's transition plan within 6 hours.

XI. NMDOT Updates

District 5 – no updates at this time.

Planning – no update at this time.

Tribal Liaison – Ron Shutiva reminded members to submit their project updates to show NMDOT and the state legislators that projects are moving forward and funds are being spent. Mr. Shutiva also noted that NMDOT has a new cabinet secretary, Ricky Serna, who met with Mr. Shutiva for a one-on-one to discuss Tribal considerations.

Mr. Shutiva noted that a number of Tribal projects are proceeding, including one with the Pueblo of San Ildefonso.

Additionally, Mr. Shutiva noted that there will be a Tribal Transit Outreach Listening Session, to be held in Española on September 14th, from 1 to 3 PM at 1327 N. Riverside Dr. Española, NM 87532, and there is also a virtual participation option. The next day will be a ribbon-cutting ceremony at the same location, the Jim West Transit Center, on Sept. 15 from 11:30 AM to 1 PM. Bryce Gibson, NCRTD, confirmed the ribbon-cutting date and time, and asked members to RSVP.

The State Transportation Commission will meet at Acoma Pueblo on October 15, 2022. District 6 will host the session.

LTAP Board – no update at this time.



XII. NPRTPO Planner/Program Manager Updates and Announcements

Mr. Sittig noted that NCNMEDD applied for the NMDOT Fast EV Charger funding to support eight locations across the broader North Central region. NCNMEDD is wrapping up its regional transit plan for seniors and disabled adults, moving from a planning phase to the implementation phase, starting in the counties of Rio Arriba, Taos, Los Alamos, Santa Fe, and Mora. This pilot project would be something that could be replicated elsewhere, as NCNMEDD's Non Metro Area Agency on Aging (NMAAA) supports senior centers in 32 of the 33 counties in the state. The main part of the project is to develop a volunteer driver program to help seniors and disabled adults to travel in the region, where other transit options aren't available or aren't viable. Additionally, Mr. Sittig and Kyla Danforth, NCNMEDD's Transportation Intern, will refocus their efforts on the Northern Pueblos Regional Transportation Plan and present an update to NPRTPO members in an upcoming meeting.

XIII. Member Input on Training and Presentations for NPRTPO

As a general update, Chair O'Donnell noted she attended the Legislative Interim Subcommittee on Transportation held in Taos the week prior to the NPRTPO meeting, where she met the new Cabinet Secretary and high-level staff who gave an overview on major projects and how they're funded. On September 1st, they gave a dedication to Carlos Sisneros Memorial Highway on 522 in Questa. There are four signs identifying the Carlos R. Sisneros Memorial Highway with an emblem of the State Senate, as he served there for 34 years.

Chair O'Donnell asked for an update on how many entities did apply for the NMDOT Fast EV charging, noting that Kit Carson Electric Co-op applied on behalf of Taos County and other entities for the Green Corridor on NM-150 through the Town of Taos, and up to the Village of Taos Ski Valley. Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham supported the Green Corridor with \$5 million in funding, of which \$500,000 was for fast EV chargers that could cost \$100,000 to \$150,000 for each complete EV charger installation including electrical upgrades. The funding from the governor is good through 2025.

Chair O'Donnell noted that Taos County received funding for bridge improvements, including FY 2023 TPF funding for the Rio Chiquito Bridge in Peñasco, and \$1.2 million in HB2 funding is going to the Pilar Bridge improvements.

- A. Upcoming meeting locations and topics
 - Oct. 5** – online; Election of officers, adoption of bylaws and Open Meeting Act resolution, and Regional Transportation Plan draft
 - Nov. 5** – Location TBD; Public Transit Rating & Ranking; NP RTP final approval; alternative bidding and project management (tentatively)
- B. Other items from NPRTPO members or the public

No additional items were raised.

XII. Adjourn

Chair O'Donnell adjourned the meeting at 11:29 AM.

