



Meeting Minutes

Northern Pueblos Regional Transportation Planning Organization (NPRTPO)
Regular meeting hosted on January 12, 2022 (online).

NPRTPO Voting Members and Alternates

Name	Entity	Title	Present/Absent
Eric Martinez	Los Alamos County	Voting Member	Absent
Eric Ulibarri	Los Alamos County	Alternate	Absent
Keith Wilson	Los Alamos County	Alternate	Present
Napoleon Garcia	Rio Arriba County	Voting Member	Present
Cathy Martinez	Rio Arriba County	Alternate	Absent
Robert Griego	Santa Fe County	Voting Member	Absent
Gary Brett Clavio	Santa Fe County	Alternate	Present
Candyce O'Donnell (Chair)	Taos County	Voting Member	Present
Jason Silva	Taos County	Alternate	Present
Muhammad A. Hussain	City of Española	Voting Member	Present
Elijah Mares	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	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
Renee Martinez	Village of Questa	Voting Member	Absent
	Village of Questa	Alternate	Absent
Cevero W. Caramillo	Jicarilla Apache Nation	Voting Member	Absent
Truett Caramillo	Jicarilla Apache Nation	Alternate	Absent
Marcus Lopez	Pueblo of Nambé	Voting Member	Present
Levi Valdez	Pueblo of Nambé	Alternate	Absent
Sylvia Armijo	Picuris Pueblo	Voting Member	Present
	Picuris Pueblo	Alternate	Absent
	Pueblo of San Ildefonso	Voting Member	Absent
Lillian Garcia	Pueblo of San Ildefonso	Alternate	Present
Christy Ladd	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	Present
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	Present
Bryce Gibson	NCRTD	Alternate	Present



NCNMEDD/NPRTPO Staff

Christopher Madrid	NCNMEDD Community Development Director
Paul Sittig	NCNMEDD Transportation Planner
Kyla Danforth	NCNMEDD Transportation Intern
Eric Renz-Whitmore	NCNMEDD Disaster Recovery Coordinator

NMDOT Staff

Rosa Kozub	NMDOT Planning Liaison, Interim
James Mexia	NMDOT Technical Support Engineer

Guests

Diahann Jacquez	City of Española
Isaac Cisneros	Town of Red River
Debra Baca	Taos County

I. Call Meeting to Order

Chairwoman O’Donnell, Taos County, called the meeting to order at 10:06 AM.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

Chairwoman O’Donnell called on Ron Shutiva to lead the pledge of allegiance.

III. Opening Prayer

Chairwoman O’Donnell asked for Ron Shutiva to lead an opening prayer.

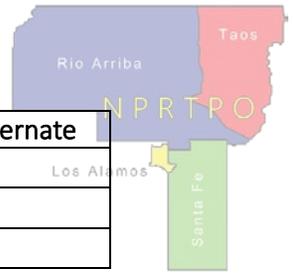
IV. Welcome and Introductions/Public Comments:

Chairwoman O’Donnell welcomed everyone, wishing everyone a Happy New Year. She asked for any members of the public to introduce themselves, and hearing none, moved forward.

V. Roll Call:

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

Name	Entity	Voting Member or Alternate
Keith Wilson	Los Alamos County	Alternate
Chairwoman Candyce O’Donnell	Taos County	Voting Member
Muhammad Hussain	City of Española	Voting Member
Patrick Nicholson	Village of Taos Ski Valley	Voting Member
Marcus Lopez	Pueblo of Nambé	Voting Member
Sylvia Armijo	Picuris Pueblo	Voting Member



Name	Entity	Voting Member or Alternate
Sybil Cota	Ohkay Owingeh	Alternate
Suzette Shije	Pueblo of Santa Clara	Voting Member
Bryce Gibson	NCRTD	Alternate

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

VI. Approval of the Agenda:

Chairwoman O’Donnell, Taos County, asked for a motion to approve the agenda.

Motion to approve the agenda as presented was made by Patrick Nicholson, Village of Taos Ski Valley. Second by Keith Wilson, Los Alamos County.

Roll Call Vote:

Name	Entity	Vote
Keith Wilson	Los Alamos County	Yes
Gary Brett Clavio	Santa Fe County	Yes
Chairwoman Candyce O’Donnell	Taos County	Yes
Muhammad Hussain	City of Española	Yes
Patrick Nicholson	Village of Taos Ski Valley	Yes
Marcus Lopez	Pueblo of Nambé	Yes
Sylvia Armijo	Picuris Pueblo	Yes
Sybil Cota	Ohkay Owingeh	Yes
Suzette Shije	Pueblo of Santa Clara	Yes
Bryce Gibson	NCRTD	Yes

Brett Clavio, Santa Fe County, joined in time for the approval of the agenda. The motion passed unanimously with members present.

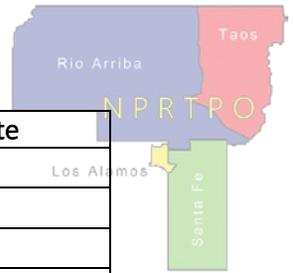
VII. Approval of the Minutes: December 8, 2021, Special Meeting online

Chairwoman O’Donnell, Taos County, asked everyone to take a moment to review the meeting minutes. With no revisions to the minutes, Chairwoman O’Donnell asked for a motion to approve the minutes as presented.

Motion was made by Keith Wilson, Los Alamos County. Second by Muhammad Hussain, City of Española.

Roll Call Vote:

Name	Entity	Vote
Keith Wilson	Los Alamos County	Yes
Gary Brett Clavio	Santa Fe County	Yes
Chairwoman Candyce O’Donnell	Taos County	Yes



Name	Entity	Vote
Muhammad Hussain	City of Española	Yes
Patrick Nicholson	Village of Taos Ski Valley	Abstain
Marcus Lopez	Pueblo of Nambé	Yes
Sylvia Armijo	Picuris Pueblo	Yes
Sybil Cota	Ohkay Owingeh	Yes
Suzette Shije	Pueblo of Santa Clara	Yes
Bryce Gibson	NCRTD	Yes

Except for the one abstention, the motion passed unanimously with members present.

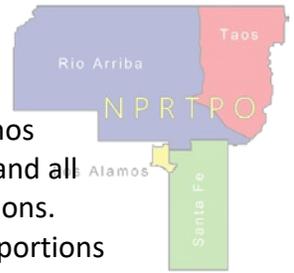
VIII. Presentation/ Discussion: RTPO 101 and related items (RTPO staff)

Paul Sittig, NCNMEDD, presented a brief RTPO 101 slideshow, covering the following:

- What is transportation planning?
 - The confluence different agencies and disciplines to develop plans, policies, legislative activities, performance measures, funding, and projects.
 - It is a collaborative and participatory process, developed by a range of stakeholders who come together to consider the socio-economic factors of a region, develop a vision for the future, and create a plan to achieve that vision.
 - Transportation planning considers growth patterns and forecasts, travel behavior, and available funding and other resources to maintain and improve transportation options.
- Scope of the nonmetropolitan transportation planning process
 - **23 CFR 450.206:** Each State shall carry out a **continuing, cooperative, and comprehensive** statewide transportation planning process that provides for consideration and implementation of projects, strategies, and services that will **address the following factors:**
 1. Support the **economic vitality** of the United States, the States, metropolitan areas, and nonmetropolitan areas, especially by enabling global competitiveness, productivity, and efficiency;
 2. Increase the **safety** of the transportation system **for motorized and non-motorized users;**
 3. Increase the **security** of the transportation system **for motorized and non-motorized users;**
 4. Increase **accessibility and mobility** of people and freight;
 5. Protect and enhance the **environment**, promote **energy conservation**, improve the **quality of life**, and promote **consistency between transportation improvements** and State and local **planned growth and economic development patterns;**



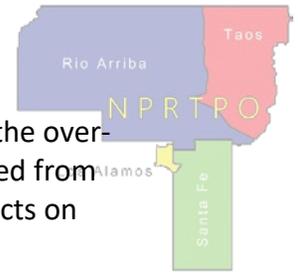
6. Enhance the **integration and connectivity of the transportation system**, across and between modes throughout the State, for people and freight;
 7. Promote **efficient system management and operation**;
 8. Emphasize the **preservation of the existing transportation system**;
 9. Improve the **resiliency and reliability** of the transportation system and **reduce or mitigate stormwater impacts of surface transportation**; and
 10. Enhance **travel and tourism**.
- New Mexico Transportation Plans include
 - Long Range: **New Mexico 2045 Plan**
 - Developed every 5 years, with a 20+ year planning horizon
 - Statewide, multimodal plan
 - Focus on **Asset Management, Mobility and Accessibility, Program Delivery, and Safety**
 - Near-term: **Statewide Transportation Improvement Plan (STIP)**
 - Fiscally constrained project list
 - Covers 4 years, plus 2 planning year
 - Amended quarterly, with some out-of-cycle amendments
 - General Documents
 - Transportation Asset Management Plan (TAMP) (2019)
 - Strategic Highway Safety Plan (SHSP) (2021 draft out now)
 - Planning Work Program (PWP) –2-year action plan for the Planning Division
 - Modal Plans
 - Statewide Transit Asset Management Plan (2019-2022)
 - Pedestrian Safety Action Plan
 - Airport System Plan
 - Regional Transportation Planning
 - NCNMEDD was created in 1967 through a Joint Powers Agreement signed by Colfax, Los Alamos, Mora, Rio Arriba, San Miguel, Santa Fe, Taos, and Sandoval counties, following creation of U.S. EDA in 1965.
 - Recognized by EDA as an economic development district in 1968.
 - New Mexico Planning District Act and the Regional Planning Act provided enabling legislation in 1978.
 - New Mexico Commission Policy 68, last revised in 2018, establishes the role of a Regional Transportation Planning Organization (RTPO) as “an organization that identifies local transportation needs, conducts planning, assists local governments, and supports the statewide transportation planning process in non-metropolitan regions of the State,” and “RTPOs provide Regional Transportation Improvement Program Recommendations (RTIPR) to be considered for inclusion in the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP).”



- Northern Pueblos RTPO consists of Rio Arriba, Taos, and Los Alamos Counties, and the non-metropolitan portion of Santa Fe County, and all the tribal and local public agencies within those counties and regions. This region is wholly within NMDO’s District 5, which also covers portions of Mid Region RTPO and Northwest RTPO, as well as all of the Santa Fe and Farmington MPOs.
- **Northern Pueblos RTPO Plans**
 - Long-range: **Regional Transportation Plan (RTP)**
 - Developed roughly every 5 years, with a 20+ year horizon
 - Identifies local and regional transportation priorities and needs
 - Informed by and consistent with NMDOT’s long-range statewide multimodal transportation plan
 - Near-term: **Rural Transportation Improvement Program Recommendations (RTIPR)**
 - List of projects eligible for state and federal funding
 - Prioritized by RTPO board, updated annually or in support of funding opportunities
 - Consistent with NPRTPO long-range RTP
 - **NP Regional Work Plan (RWP)**
 - Outlines work products for two years, separated into tasks:
 - Long-Range Planning and Implementation
 - Technical Support and Data Management
 - Project Development and Monitoring
 - Other Activities and Projects, General NPRTPO Support and Administration
 - Primarily funded by FHWA, administered by NMDOT
 - RTPO requirements & guidance detailed by NMDOT in the Planning Procedures Manual
- **Role of the RTPO Board**
 - Consists of representatives selected by tribal or local agencies
 - Board meetings are open to the public, to provide information to the public and solicit public input and feedback to regional planning efforts
 - Board rates and ranks transportation and transit project proposals in the region, which provide information to NMDOT and other decision-makers
 - RTPO meetings also provide a forum to distribute information and discuss transportation planning and funding opportunities

IX. Presentation/ Discussion: Combining State/Fed. Funding RTIPR table (RTPO staff)

Paul Sittig, NCNMEDD, presented his proposed combined structure for the Regional Transportation Improvement Program Recommendations (RTIPR) for Northern Pueblos RTPO, which would list all projects proposed for state or federal funding by tribal and local public agencies (TLPAs). The key changes Mr. Sittig proposed were:



- **Presenting the average score for each proposed project**, in addition to the overall priority or ranking, which would allow projects to be added or removed from the RTIPR without needing to re-consider and re-rank all proposed projects on the list, if the ranking criteria does not change
- **Adding funding eligibility and project type**, which would allow the list to be filtered, pulling out eligible projects for different calls for projects, and individual projects could be considered for more than one funding source or type

Mr. Sittig suggested that this singular list could also be presented to state or federal-level representatives who are looking for a list of regional priorities for funding.

Brett Clavio, Santa Fe County, asked how a project would get added to this list. Mr. Sittig noted that this combined list could simplify and condense the current rating and ranking process, which is done with the entire list of applications each time a new funding opportunity arises, as was done for the state Transportation Project Fund (TPF) call in the Spring of 2021, and then for the federal Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP), Recreational Trails Program (RTP), and Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ) program in the Summer to Fall of 2021.

Keith Wilson, Los Alamos County, asked if there would be value in showing the NMDOT projects in the region. Mr. Sittig noted that he had similar thoughts and was looking to include the projects from the STIP in the NPRTPO region.

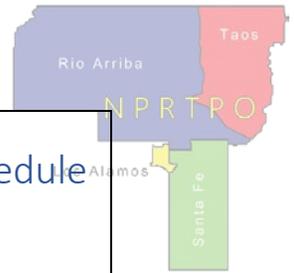
Mr. Clavio asked whether the Rio Grande Gorge bridge was on the RTIPR, and if it could be included. Chair O'Donnell asked whether that project is on the STIP, and asked Mr. Sittig to look into that matter.

Chair O'Donnell asked for guidelines for applying for funding, and how to present to ensure a streamlined process. Mr. Sittig said he would develop that guiding document.

Mr. Wilson noted that the RTPO rating and ranking is the first step and this ranking does not mean future funding is certain or assured, as NMDOT will review this ranking and apply additional considerations. Mr. Sittig said he would draft an addition to the proposed RTIPR structure to clarify or specify the role of the NPRTPO Board's rating and ranking, and the resulting RTIPR, as they relate to the larger NMDOT-managed project review and awarding process.

X. Presentation/ Discussion: Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) Update Schedule (RTPO staff)

Paul Sittig, NCNMEDD, presented the following structure and schedule, condensing some sections that were previously drafted by Lesah Sedillo Steve Fisher, and adding information about the performance measures that NMDOT must meet with a focus on system performance in the Northern Pueblos region:



Proposed Northern Pueblos Table of Contents, NPRTPO schedule

Part I – Introduction (*Discuss at NPRTPO in February 2022*)

1.1 Regional Overview

1.2 What is a Regional Transportation Plan? What is an RTPO?

1.3 DOT, State-wide, and Regional Guiding Goals

- Including guidelines from the 2045 NMDOT Plan and recent contributions to strategic goals
- Also presenting (regional?) information on state goals for federal Performance Measures
 - PM 1: Total Traffic Fatalities, Total Serious Injuries, Fatalities per 100M VMT, Rate of serious injury, number of non-motorized fatalities and non-motorized serious injuries
 - PM 2: Percentage of bridges on the NHS in Good Condition, Percentage of bridges on the NHS in Poor Condition, Percentage of Interstate pavements on the NHS in Good Condition and in Poor Condition, Percentage of Non-Interstate pavements on the NHS in Good Condition and Poor Condition
 - PM 3: Interstate Highway Level of Travel Time Reliability, Non-Interstate Highway Level of Travel Time Reliability, Truck Travel Time Reliability, Total Emission Reduction (New Mexico PM-10)
- Reference Strategic Highway Safety Plan (2021 draft, if not final) (SHSP), Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP)

Part II – Current Conditions (*Discuss at NPRTPO in March 2022*)

2.1 County Overview

2.2 Regional Socioeconomic Data

2.3 Commuting, Crash, and DUI Data by County

- Create info graphic for crash and DUI data

2.4 Transportation System Overview

Part III – Challenges, Opportunities, and Goals (*Discuss at NPRTPO in April 2022*)

3.1 Public Outreach

3.2 Challenges and Opportunities

3.3 Goals, Priorities and Strategies, with input from the members to ensure broad represent the region

Part IV – Next Steps (*Discuss at NPRTPO in May 2022*)

4.1 Plan Implementation

- This section would include the following: A section describing the RTIPR, A section with a priority/wish list for the regions, A section for funding, and a section describing RTPO coordination and Zipper



Brett Clavio, Santa Fe County, asked about regional and local design standards, where rural road characteristics could be preserved. Mr. Clavio suggested we develop regional standards, how to design roads and what assets they could or should have, to help communities without the resources to develop such standards themselves. Chair O’Donnell noted that many rural roads are rather narrow, and there may be factors limiting whether these roads could be widened. She also asked for guidance or to learn more about other options to maintain dirt roads when paving isn’t feasible, and asked how NMDOT maintains dirt roads, including reducing the amount of dust produced on unpaved roads. Mr. Sittig said he would investigate this, though it may be something to develop outside of the Regional Transportation Plan, and additional information may be available from UNM’s Local Technical Assistance Program (LTAP).

Mr. Sittig noted that NMDOT does own and maintain some unpaved roads, and mentioned a scenic byway that has an unpaved portion. Napo Garcia, Rio Arriba County, noted that NM-112 has an unpaved portion, but that is where it becomes Rio Arriba County Road 319 for 16 miles. Mr. Garcia said this split in road ownership was due to NMDOT giving the portion of what was NM-112 to the County in the past. Chair O’Donnell asked James Mexia to look into the process for a County to request or offer a road to NMDOT to own or maintain.

Chair O’Donnell stated she would also like to know more about speed bumps or humps, how to build them, and where they may be placed. She noted that Taos County ordinance, residential neighborhood not well defined.

Rosa Kozub, NMDOT, shared a link to the NMDOT Design Manual:

<https://www.dot.nm.gov/infrastructure/engineering-publications/design-manual/>

Ms. Kozub noted that these are guidelines and not requirements, and stated she was unsure whether it includes information on speed humps. *[Note: it appears that the NMDOT Design Manual does not include design guidelines for speed humps or bumps.]*

XI. Presentation/ Discussion: Legislative Session preview (NCNMEDD Community Development Director)

Christopher Madrid, NCNMEDD, stated he was pleased to present before “the best RTP in the state.” He noting that the Community Development Council met earlier that morning to allocate CDBG funding, and there was more funding available than there was requests through applications, so everyone got funded. Mr. Madrid noted Rio Arriba County received funding for roof repair as requested, and that these allocations were for infrastructure projects. He also noted that there is \$1.5 million dollars for economic development projects, and those funds had not yet been awarded.



Mr. Madrid noted that CDBG had more funding than requests for infrastructure, with 5 of the 15 projects statewide coming from the North Central Region.

North Central CDBG-funded projects were as follows –

- Cimarron Wastewater Treatment Plan
- Las Vegas Hot Springs Road Street and Drainage Improvements
- Pecos Water and Sewer Line Replacement
- Rio Arriba County Facilities Roof Repair
- Red River High Street Street and Drainage Improvements

All projects were \$750k except for Rio Arriba County, which requested \$583,607.

Chair O’Donnell asked about applications from Taos County, and Mr. Madrid stated that there were no CDBG applications from the Town of Taos or Taos County this round.

Mr. Madrid stated that the New Mexico Legislature allocated about \$480 million of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding, with \$142 million is for infrastructure to include highways and roads. This allocation was limited to certain counties, and in the North Central region, only Santa Fe and San Miguel were included in that allocation. \$133 million went to broadband, \$25 million to affordable housing.

Mr. Madrid noted that in the regular 2022 session, the Governor’s budget is looking to increase the state transportation Project Design & Construction budget by about 6.2%. The Governor’s call for projects is not out yet, but some of her priorities include predatory loans, the hydrogen initiative, and the big one is teacher pay increases.

Mr. Madrid stated that there is a \$1 billion plus surplus this year, though it is not yet known what the Capital Outlay budget is. Mr. Madrid reminded members that the deadline to submit Capital Outlay requests was January 13, 2022, at 3 PM.

Christopher Madrid noted that the New Mexico Tourism Department partnered with the Councils of Government and Economic Development Districts to present a joint proposal to the Governor for tourism investments across the state. Paul Sittig distributed the 33-page document, titled “Tourism Infrastructure: Recommendations for FY2023 Capital Outlay Funding,” which listed 16 projects in the North Central region:

1. Cimarron Park Improvements
2. Cimarron Pedestrian Walkway
3. Las Vegas Riverwalk Improvements
4. Las Vegas Rodriguez Sports Complex Improvements
5. Raton Bartlett Mesa Ranch Acquisition
6. Red River Park and Recreation Projects
7. Piedra Lumbre Visitor Center Purchase/Improvements
8. City of Santa Fe Midtown Infrastructure Development
9. City of Santa Fe Acequia Trail Extension
10. City of Santa Fe Bicycle & Pedestrian Wayfinding System



11. City of Santa Fe Median Beautification Phase I
12. Springer Veterans Park Improvements
13. Springer Santa Fe Trail Museum Improvements
14. Taos Pueblo Heritage Center Infrastructure
15. Eagle Nest Enchanted Eagle Park Improvements
16. Maxwell Recreational Facilities

Mr. Madrid noted that this is a good opportunity for communities to advocate for major funding.

Chair O'Donnell asked if these tourism funds were disbursements or reimbursements, noting that some communities have a hard time carrying the costs upfront to be reimbursed. Mr. Madrid replied that these are Capital Outlay funds, and awarded projects would be funded as reimbursements for eligible costs. He noted that project management would assist in reducing the time that funds are being carried by a municipality before reimbursement. Mr. Madrid said that if a project is properly documented, the notice of obligations is in hand, and the work is done on a timely manner, contractors and subcontractors generally work with you to get the job done and the municipality will get reimbursed on a timely basis. Chair O'Donnell noted that smaller counties and tribes that want to do larger projects are often limited in the amount in their reserves or CD, which limits the size of projects they can pursue. Mr. Madrid said he looked forward to learning more about those pain points, and raise it as an issue. Mr. Madrid noted that Representatives Montoya, Herrera, and Ortez and Rural Task Force, who are working on the equity issue about our rural communities and their opportunities, where larger communities have more capacity. Chair O'Donnell noted that Questa is a good community to look for as an example of a small community with limited capacity to pursue these larger funding opportunities.

Mr. Madrid noted that the federal infrastructure funding guidelines are still being developed by the U.S. Treasury, and it looks like there will be a special session to allocate that funding once the rules are finalized. Chair O'Donnell asked when the interim Treasury rule would be replaced by final rules, and Mr. Madrid said that the final rule is expected immediately. Mr. Madrid noted that the Federal Highways Administration (FHWA) has provided a good overview of future funding, while other federal agencies are still developing those details.

Chair O'Donnell asked for clarification on which funding is being allocated through the NM State Legislature. Mr. Madrid stated that about half of the ARPA funding was allocated in the special December session, and the remainder would be allocated during the regular 30-day session. The final rules to implement and distribute funding from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, which was signed into law on November 15, 2021, are still in works. He noted that there may be a special session to allocate those dollars.



XII. NMDOT Updates

James Mexia: MAP and LGRF calls for projects have been sent out, noting that March 15 is the application deadline. He is also looking into the question of how and if Counties can return roads to the State. Chair O’Donnell thanked him for looking into this, and noted that there is almost a spotlight on the construction project on State Road 68.

Rosa Kozub, NMDOT interim Planning Liaison – NMDOT’s draft SHSP for review: <https://www.dot.nm.gov/planning-research-multimodal-and-safety/planning-division/multimodal-planning-and-programs-bureau/highway-safety-improvement-program/> - Ms. Kozub stated that comments due by January 18, 2022. Chair O’Donnell asked if Mr. Sittig could collect comments from members, and he said he would. Paul Sittig, NCNMEDD, congratulated Rosa Kozub on her new position as Bureau Chief for the Multimodal Planning and Programs Bureau.

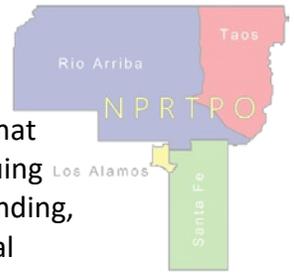
Ron Shutiva, NMDOT Tribal Liaison – Mr. Shutiva noted that he is compiling the annual update of tribal officials, thanking those entities who have provided those updates. Mr. Shutiva reminded members to stay on top of state TPF funding agreements. He noted that this as recurring funding would benefit from review of members’ priorities. Mr. Shutiva reminded members that TPF only requires a 5% match, and there is the option for a hardship waiver through DFA. He also noted that the state funding doesn’t have the same requirements as federal funding. He offered to coordinate between the tribes and Secretary Sandoval, and noted that George Dodge offers the same service for local communities.

Ron Shutiva, LTAP Board – no meeting yet; trainings are noticed via email, and on the UNM LTAP website – <https://ltap.unm.edu>

Chair O’Donnell provided an update on the State Transportation Commission meeting that was held in-person in Santa Fe on January 6, 2022, which she attended to speak to the Approval of Proposed Dedication of the “Carlos R. Cisneros Memorial Highway” on Highway 522. She noted that there was also approval of Proposed Dedication of the “John I. King Memorial Bridge” in Gallup. Chair O’Donnell noted that District 5’s priorities were:

- Bypass around Jemez
- Piñon Hills project in Farmington
- Cerrillos Road
- McKinley Corridor with costs up to \$1 billion dollars
- Improvements to I-40, making it 6 lanes in a stretch

Chair O’Donnell noted that the recurring funding of \$40 million for Transportation Project Funds (TPF) would be increased by another \$80 million, bringing the FFY 2023 total funding to \$120 million, about \$20 million per District. She noted that the Cabinet Secretary will be presenting this budget to the Legislative Finance Committee (LFC) because of the surplus funding. Chair O’Donnell noted members should be preparing in



February, assuming the call goes out again in April. Chair O’Donnell also noted that there is a 30% increase federal transportation funding, though there is a continuing resolution going on in Congress. Section 1053 (Transit and Rail) will see more funding, and the NMDOT Transit and Rail Division is working on a waiver match for capital purchases, thanks to the influx of state and federal funding. Chair O’Donnell noted that District 5 District Engineer Paul Brasher released \$150,000 for security cameras at the Rio Grande Gorge Bridge, to improve safety on the bridge.

XIII. Member Input on Training and Presentations for NPRTPO

Chairwoman O’Donnell noted that this item was generally addressed already and moved to the next item.

XIV. NPRTPO Planner/Program Manager Updates and Announcements

Paul Sittig, NCNMEDD, thanked Chair O’Donnell for covering the increase in federal funding, and reiterated the point that Christopher Madrid made that we’re still waiting for guidance on how the funding will be distributed, so in the meantime we can identify our priorities. Mr. Sittig also reiterated that these programs are reimbursements, and he noted that NMDOT may be able to work with tribal and local entities to quickly and frequently reimburse for eligible costs so those expenses are not carried too long by communities.

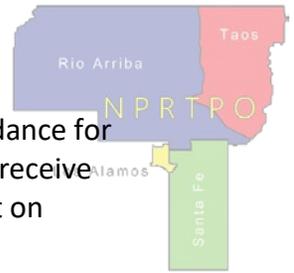
Mr. Sittig noted that the quarterly RTPO Roundtable will be on Friday, Feb. 18, and while it’s intended for RTPO staff, other members are welcome to join. He noted that he is looking to have staff from the congressional and representative offices to meet the RTPO staff and help us identify how we could help the tribes and communities prepare for federal funding, primarily for transportation infrastructure. Mr. Sittig noted he’s looking into the new federal funding for electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure. He noted that previously, EV charging was only supported by FHWA in designating alternative fuel corridors for EV charging, as well as CNG, LNG, LPG, and Hydrogen (https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/environment/alternative_fuel_corridors/). There is EV charging guidance in development (<https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/bipartisan-infrastructure-law/evs.cfm>), which Mr. Sittig stated he is reviewing.

Chair O’Donnell noted that one thing that local and tribal entities can do to address climate change is to transition their fleets to electric vehicles, noting that there are new electric pickup truck options, in addition to developing EV charging stations.

XV. New Business

A. Upcoming meeting locations and topics

February 2 – online; Legislative Session & Capital Outlay Updates; 2045 NM Freight Plan Update overview, Q&A; RTP discussion



Chair O'Donnell asked Mr. Sittig to prepare TPF outlines, and guidance for presentations. Vice Chair Lujan noted that while Taos Pueblo did receive TPF funding for the Rio Lucero project, the award notice was sent on September 27 or 28, and the deadline for the match waiver was September 30, 2021. This limited notice was further complicated by the fact that September 30 is Taos Pueblo's big feast day, so many were involved with cultural activities around that date. Vice Chair Lujan said he reached out to NMDOT Secretary Sandoval to ask for an extension for the match waiver request, but that extension request was denied. Chair O'Donnell asked what the remedy for this might be, and Vice Chair Lujan said that more lead time between the award notice and deadline for waiver requests would help.

Chair O'Donnell asked James Mexia if he had any suggestions, and Mr. Mexia said he could follow up offline with Vice Chair Lujan to better understand the issues with this workflow. Mr. Mexia also suggested preparing a match waiver request in advance of receiving the award.

Mr. Sittig said he would reach out to the NMDOT Project Oversight Division to ask if there would be any changes to the TPF process, and work with Mr. Mexia to identify ways to standardize and streamline the TPF process for the next call and award.

March 2 – online; NMDOT Environmental Bureau presentation; state and federal funding review, RTP discussion

B. Other items from NPRTPO members or the public

Chairwoman O'Donnell asked if anyone had additional questions or comments, and there were none. She hoped that everyone would stay safe.

XVI. Adjourn

Chairwoman O'Donnell, Taos County, adjourned the meeting at 11:46 AM.