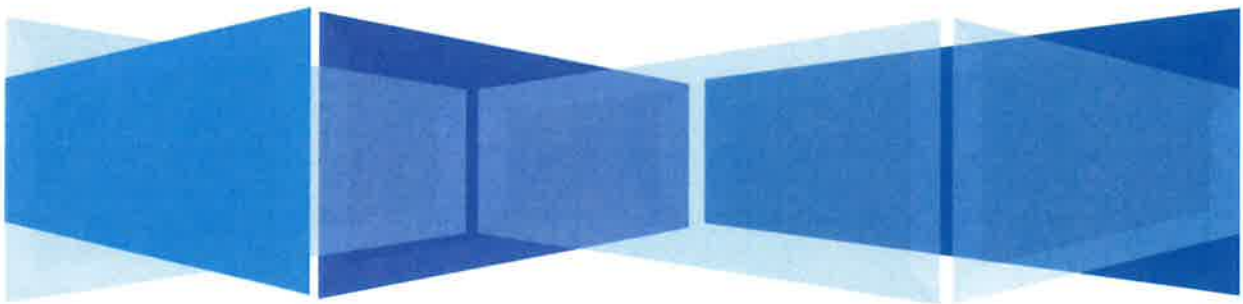


# 2024 Public Participation Plan

Northeast Regional Transportation Planning Organization

Northcentral Economic Development District &  
Eastern Plains Council of Governments



## I. Introduction

The Northeast Regional Transportation Planning Organization (NERTPO) is the entity and public forum responsible for transportation planning and other transportation related programs or activities outlined in the New Mexico Department of Transportation's (NMDOT's) Planning and Procedures Manual (PPM) and 23 C.F.R. § 450.212 that includes the counties and respective incorporated communities of Colfax, Guadalupe (excluding the Village of Vaughn, which is served by Southeast RTPO), Harding, Mora, San Miguel, Quay, and Union.

Regional Transportation Planning Organizations (RTPOs) such as NERTPO are recognized programs of the NMDOT Planning Division that are administered, managed, and staffed through a cooperative agreement with respective Economic Development Districts (EDDs) and/ or Council of Governments (COGs). NERTPO is staffed and co-managed by the Northcentral Economic Development District (NCNMEDD) and the Eastern Plains Council of Governments (EPCOG).

In order to establish lawful compliance with federal and state requirements; maintain continuity, cooperation, and comprehensive public input (3-C); increase and maintain citizen participation; develop regional priorities and programs; and other relevant transportation related regional planning, NERTPO has drafted and created this Public Participation Plan (PPP). The right of the public to input comments for our regional program is valuable and highly encouraged in order to develop regional priorities and plans of substantial caliber.

## II. State and Federal Requirements

RTPOs are tasked with the responsibilities of developing many plans and providing technical assistance within their region. Regional Transportation Plans (RTPs), Regional Work Plans (RWPs), PPPs, Regional Transportation Improvement Plan Recommendations (RTPIRs), and other applicable products and functions of the RTPOs must include citizen or public participation. Citizen participation is federally defined in 23 C.F.R. § 200.5(c) as "[a]n open process in which the rights of the community to be informed, to provide comments to the Government and to receive a response from the Government are met through a full opportunity to be involved and to express needs and goals."

(a) 23 C.F.R § 450.210(a)(1) outlines a minimum of what the public participation process shall be and is paraphrased here as:

- i. Establish early and continuous public involvement opportunities that provide timely information about transportation issues and decision making processes;
- ii. Provide reasonable public access to technical and policy information;
- iii. Provide adequate public notice of public involvement activities which will include time for public review and comment;
- iv. Ensure meetings are held at convenient and accessible locations and times;
- v. Use visualization techniques to describe plans and support studies;
- vi. Make public information electronically accessible;
- vii. Demonstrate explicit consideration and response to public input;
- viii. Include a process for the traditionally underserved population's consideration and participation; and

ix. Provide periodic review of the effectiveness of public involvement.  
In compliance with 23 C.F.R. § 450.210(a)(2), NERTPO shall, at a minimum, allow forty-five (45) calendar days for public review of the NERTPO PPP and RTP.

(b) NM Open Meetings Act

Chapter 10, Article 15 NMSA 1978 is known as NM's "Open Meetings Act" or "Sunshine Law." This law establishes the State's standard procedure when conducting businesses and meetings of which concern the public. NMSA § 10-15-1 presents the procedures for open meetings and is summarized here as:

- i. All persons shall be permitted to attend and listen to the deliberations and proceedings;
- ii. Reasonable efforts shall be made to accommodate the use of audio and video recording devices;
- iii. No convened public meeting, except under certain circumstances, shall be closed or dissolved into small groups or committees for the purpose of closing a meeting;
- iv. Notwithstanding any applicable laws or the public body's rules, a member of the organization may participate by electronic audio or visual media that allows the member to interact with the meeting members and vice-versa;
- v. Meetings of which official business is to be conducted shall provide reasonable notice to the public;
- vi. The official body will annually determine what notice for the public is reasonable;
- vii. If provided written request for such notice, the public notice of the meeting shall include broadcast stations licensed by the Federal Communications Commission and newspapers of general circulation;
- viii. A meeting may recess and reconvene to a subsequent day in accordance with NMSA § 10-15-1(E);
- ix. At least seventy-two (72) hours prior to the meeting shall the agenda be available to the public and posted to the public body's website; and
- x. Written minutes shall be kept by the public body in accordance to NMSA § 10-15-1 (G) which will include date, time, place of meeting, names of those members present or absent, substance of the proposals considered, and a record of decisions and votes of the members as appropriate.

III. Title VI & Environmental Justice

Federally funded recipients and their programs are required to follow provisions of the Title VI Civil Rights Act of 1964 and applicable Executive Orders (EOs).

NERTPO is obligated and dedicated to assure that no person shall be discriminated against based on race, color, national origin, gender, age, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, or disability. It is also the obligation of NERTPO to assure that every effort is made to prevent the discrimination of low-income populations, minority populations, and any persons considered to have Limited English Proficiency (LEP). Therefore, NERTPO has created and adopted a comprehensive Title VI Plan that cites

applicable civil right laws, executive orders, environmental justice laws, and outlines a process of complaint should these assurances not be met.

This Title VI Plan of NERTPO is available online at <https://www.rtponm.org/north-east> and may be acquired by contacting EPCOG or NCNMEDD:

EPCOG – Julie Surina  
418 Main St.  
Clovis, NM 88101  
Email: JSurina@EPCOG.org  
Office: (575) 762-7714

NCNMEDD – Patrick Million  
644 Don Gaspar  
Santa Fe, NM 87507  
Email: PatrickM@NCNMEDD.com  
Cell phone: (505) 356-9694


#### IV. NERTPO PPP Approved and Adopted

This plan was presented to and accepted by a quorum of the NERTPO Joint Technical/Policy Committee. This plan is subject to a mandatory forty-five (45) calendar day public review and is thusly the finished product of the public input and review. The PPP of NERTPO shall be reviewed and edited as needed, with any proposed edits being open for 45 days for public review and feedback. A copy of the plan will be made available online at <https://www.rtponm.org/north-east>.

See here the signatures of the NERTPO Joint Technical/Policy Committee Chair and Planners as show of formal adoption of the plan and witnesses thereto:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Chair – Northeast Regional Transportation Planning Organization  
Joint Technical/ Policy Committee  
Shawn Jeffrey

  
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Planner – Northeast RTPO  
Eastern Plains Council of Governments  
Julie Surina

  
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Planner - Northeast RTPO  
North Central NM Economic Dev. Dist.  
Patrick Million