



Meeting Minutes

Northern Pueblos Regional Transportation Planning Organization (NPRTPO)
Regular meeting hosted on February 2, 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	Absent
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	Present
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	Absent
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	Community Development Director
Paul Sittig	Transportation Planner
Kyla Danforth	Transportation Intern

NMDOT Staff

Rosa Kozub	Multimodal Planning and Programs Bureau Chief and interim NPRTPO Planning Liaison
Joseph Moriarty	Technical & Freight Planning Supervisor
Tyler Roller	Technical & Freight Planner
James Mexia	Technical Support Engineer
Ron Shutiva	Tribal Liaison

Guests

Brent Jaramillo	Taos County Manager
Darlene Vigil	Taos County Commission Chair
Eric Chavez	Field Representative for Sen. Ben Ray Luján
Luanne Dreyer Elliott	Volunteer with Gorge Bridge Safety Network
Joe Sanchez	WH Pacific, Engineer

I. Call Meeting to Order

Chair Candyce O'Donnell, Taos County, called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

Chair O'Donnell called on Joseph Moriarty, NMDOT, to lead the pledge of allegiance.

III. Opening Prayer

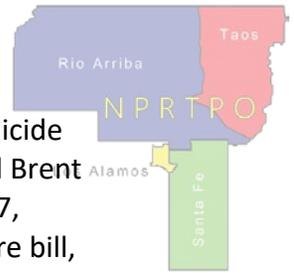
Chair O'Donnell asked for Marcus Lopez, Nambé Pueblo, to lead an opening prayer.

IV. Welcome and Introductions/Public Comments:

Chair O'Donnell asked for all in attendance to introduce themselves, with all present being indicated in the attendance log above.

Chair O'Donnell asked Eric Chavez, Field Representative for Senator Ben Ray Luján how the senator was doing. Mr. Chavez said the senator is resting comfortably and is expected to make a full recovery, and asked people to keep the senator and his family in your prayers and thoughts. (Mr. Chavez shared in the chat "Please feel free to reach out to me if the Senator's office can be of any assistance. Email: Eric.Chavez@lujan.senate.gov or via work cell 505-328-7394")

Chair O'Donnell recognized a member from the public, Luanne Dryer Elliott, who introduced herself as a volunteer with the Gorge Bridge Safety Network since 2016, when a family friend died at the bridge. Ms. Dryer Elliott referenced federal funding information that indicated New Mexico could expect to receive \$225 million for bridge

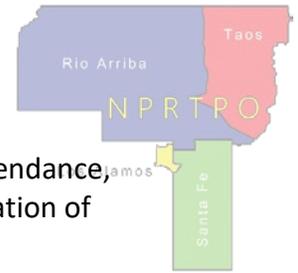


replacement and repairs over five years, and she noted this could be used for suicide remediation at the bridge. Ms. Dryer Elliott noted that she, Chair O’Donnell, and Brent Jaramillo presented numerous letters of support to a joint RTPO meeting in 2017, though no progress was made at that time. She noted that the new infrastructure bill, P.L. 117-58 (*the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, also called the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law*), includes funding for safety barriers and nets on bridges. Ms. Dryer Elliott said that the Gorge Bridge Safety Network supports any kind of safety barrier and noted that their original proposal was done by a retired bridge engineer from Arizona that involved rails, though a more modern approach that obstructs views less would also be supported. Ms. Dryer Elliott provided a summary of studies and efforts to improve safety on the bridge, going back to 2009, when State Senator Cisneros championed suicide deterrents at the bridge.

- 2009-2018: NMDOT conducted years of feasibility research
- 2010: NMDOT presented feasibility study results in Taos
- 2014: community members formed the Gorge Bridge Safety Network (GBSN)
- 2014-2015: NMDOT installed crisis phone lines on the bridge
- 2017-2021: 15 deaths at the bridge
 - 2016: a juvenile death at the bridge
 - 2021: a possible juvenile death at the bridgeMs. Dryer Elliott noted these deaths may signal the bridge as a public nuisance
- 2016-2017: Town of Taos and Taos County passed resolutions supporting suicide deterrent construction
- 2017: NPRTPO and Taos County prioritized the Rio Grande Gorge Bridge (RGGB) safety project (*added to the NPRTPO RTIPR*)
- 2018: NMDOT presented more detailed feasibility study results in Taos
- 2018: Senator Cisneros passed Senate Memorial 103 for Rio Grande Gorge Bridge Safety Improvements
- 2020: Governor Lujan Grisham authorized RGGB security guard training, staffing
- Currently: NMDOT has secured funding for security cameras and ADA-compliant walkways

Ms. Dryer Elliott asked what could be done to advance safety improvements on at RGGB, how the RTPO could assist, or what the GBSN could do. Chair O’Donnell thanked Ms. Dryer Elliott for her comments and said those questions could be addressed in a future meeting as a general discussion item, when the RTPO could review how bridges are added to the New Mexico safety transportation improvement plan.

Patrick Nicholson, Village of Taos Ski Valley, thanked Ms. Dryer Elliott for the information, and noted that this matter had been before NPRTPO before. Mr. Nicholson asked if NPRTPO could draft a resolution in support of suicide prevention at the Rio Grande Gorge Bridge at the next NPRTPO meeting. Mr. Nicholson stated this is an issue of importance to the greater Taos community and north central New Mexico, and anything that NPRTPO could do to advance the issue would be appreciated.



Chair O'Donnell recognized Joe Sanchez as another member of the public in attendance, and she asked him to introduce himself. He noted he was attending at the invitation of Mr. Brent Jaramillo.

Chair O'Donnell asked for any other public comments, and asked Mr. Jaramillo if he wanted to ask about the process of rating and ranking projects. Mr. Jaramillo noted that this could be addressed later in the agenda.

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
Napoleon Garcia	Rio Arriba County	Voting Member
Gary Brett Clavio	Santa Fe County	Alternate
Chair Candyce O'Donnell	Taos County	Voting Member
Muhammad Hussain	City of Española	Voting Member
Patrick Nicholson	Village of Taos Ski Valley	Voting Member
Linda Calhoun	Town of Red River	Voting Member
Marcus Lopez	Pueblo of Nambé	Voting Member
Sylvia Armijo	Picuris Pueblo	Voting Member
Christy Ladd	Ohkay Owingeh	Voting Member
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.

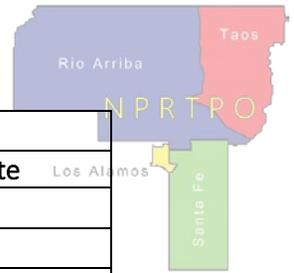
VI. Approval of the Agenda:

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 Napoleon Garcia, Rio Arriba County.

Roll Call Vote:

Name	Entity	Vote
Keith Wilson	Los Alamos County	Yes
Napoleon Garcia	Rio Arriba County	Yes
Gary Brett Clavio	Santa Fe County	Yes
Chair Candyce O'Donnell	Taos County	Yes
Muhammad Hussain	City of Española	Yes
Patrick Nicholson	Village of Taos Ski Valley	Yes



Linda Calhoun	Town of Red River	Yes
Name	Entity	Vote
Marcus Lopez	Pueblo of Nambé	Yes
Sylvia Armijo	Picuris Pueblo	Yes
Lillian Garcia	Pueblo of San Ildefonso	Yes
Christy Ladd	Ohkay Owingeh	Yes
Suzette Shije	Pueblo of Santa Clara	Yes
Bryce Gibson	NCRTD	Yes

The motion passed unanimously with members present.

VII. Approval of the Minutes: January 12, 2022, Regular Meeting (online)

Chair O’Donnell, Taos County, asked everyone to take a moment to review the meeting minutes. She asked Mr. Sittig if the Town of Taos attended the prior meeting as a guest. Mr. Sittig noted they were not in attendance. (*Mr. Sittig later confirmed that Debra Baca should have been in attendance as a member of Taos County instead of the Town of Taos*). Lillian Garcia, Pueblo of San Ildefonso, noted she was not included as present but not voting on items. Mr. Sittig referred to his attendance log and noted that Ms. Garcia joined the meeting around 11:08 AM, after the voting on action items had taken place. Chair O’Donnell asked for a motion to approve the minutes with the attendance correction.

Motion was made by Lillian Garcia, Pueblo of San Ildefonso. Second by Muhammad Hussain, City of Española.

Roll Call Vote:

Name	Entity	Vote
Keith Wilson	Los Alamos County	Yes
Napoleon Garcia	Rio Arriba County	Yes
Gary Brett Clavio	Santa Fe County	Yes
Chair Candyce O’Donnell	Taos County	Yes
Muhammad Hussain	City of Española	Yes
Patrick Nicholson	Village of Taos Ski Valley	Yes
Linda Calhoun	Town of Red River	Yes
Marcus Lopez	Pueblo of Nambé	Yes
Sylvia Armijo	Picuris Pueblo	Yes
Lillian Garcia	Pueblo of San Ildefonso	Yes
Christy Ladd	Ohkay Owingeh	Yes
Suzette Shije	Pueblo of Santa Clara	Yes
Bryce Gibson	NCRTD	Yes

The motion passed unanimously with members present.



VIII. Presentation/ Discussion: NM Freight Plan Update (Joseph Moriarty, NMDOT)

Chair O'Donnell congratulated Mr. Moriarty on his promotion to Technical & Freight Planning Supervisor and welcomed him back to NPRTPO to present on NMDOT's freight plan.

Mr. Moriarty thanked the Chair O'Donnell for welcome, and introduced Tyler Roller, a new hire in the Technical and Freight Planning Unit, who will be helping with the 2045 New Mexico Freight Plan. Mr. Moriarty noted that this planning effort is in its early stages, with this presentation as one of the outreach meetings to MPO and RTPO partners throughout the state.

Mr. Moriarty presented the background of the freight plan with a slide that read "The 2045 New Mexico Freight Plan Update will re-establish the vision and analysis of how New Mexico maintains and improves the condition and performance of the multimodal freight network in the state." Mr. Moriarty noted that the plan would look at all surface freight, including road, rail, intermodal (connections from rail to truck and air to truck), as well as pipelines. He noted that much has changed since 2015 when the prior freight plan was developed, including autonomous and platooning vehicles, and other freight technologies. The presentation continued:

Why is statewide freight planning important?

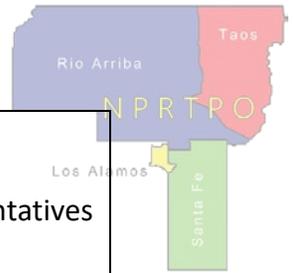
- Federal requirement necessary to receive National Highway Freight Program Funding.
 - Must be updated at least every 4 years.
- Ensures that NMDOT and partners keep up with current trends.
- Freight transportation is critical to the state's economy.
- Opportunity for alignment with the long-range statewide transportation plan.
- Consistent with transportation planning best practices.

What is involved in New Mexico's freight plan update process?

- Engaging a cross-sector Freight Advisory Committee (FAC).
- Quantifying the economic trends affecting freight transportation in NM.
- Identifying major trade gateways, freight corridors, and freight bottlenecks.
- Improving understanding of the freight system conditions, needs, resources.
- Developing a strategic vision for freight movement through 2045.
- Documenting NMDOT's freight project selection process.
- Presenting an updated fiscally-constrained list of freight projects for NM.

Who's Involved?

- Planning Team
 - Joe Moriarty, Freight Planning Program Manager



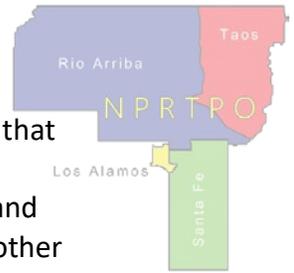
- Rosa Kozub, Multimodal Planning & Programs Bureau Chief
- High Street Consulting Group
- Freight Advisory Committee, with public & private stakeholder representatives
 - State, regional, and local governments
 - Freight industry representatives
 - Communities impacted by freight
- MPOs and RTPOs
- Internal NMDOT Freight Working Group



Mr. Moriarty noted that initial freight research and analysis, and the first Freight Advisory Committee meeting will take place on Feb. 24, 2022. He asked for input and feedback by email at Joseph.Moriarty@state.nm.us or by phone at (505) 470-8143. He also shared the new 2045 Freight Plan website, <https://www.2045nmfreightplan.com> , noting that it will host Freight Advisory Committee (FAC) meeting minutes and prior planning documents. You can also provide comments and suggestions online.

Chair O’Donnell thanked Mr. Moriarty for the presentation and asked members for questions. Mr. Sittig asked if the plan will be focused on state facilities or looks beyond. Mr. Moriarty said the plan would look to the broader freight network that extends beyond the state system and noted that the new Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) allows the designation of more miles as critical freight corridors and increases the limit on how much of state-allocated freight funding could be moved to intermodal and rail freight projects. Strategic direction will first come from the committee, and NMDOT is continuing to receive additional guidance on new and continuing federal programs.

Chair O’Donnell asked to confirm that this plan is necessary to receive federal funding, and Mr. Moriarty confirmed that is correct. Chair O’Donnell asked for additional details on the inclusion of pipelines in the plan, and Mr. Moriarty noted that gas through pipelines can be considered as a mode of freight. Chair O’Donnell noted that a lot is



changing with driverless semis and hydrogen-fueled trucks. Mr. Moriarty stated that they are planning for possible future scenarios, including different fuel types. Joe Sanchez asked about modal links, and the connection between destination and transfer points versus origin and transfer points, such as grocery deliveries and other retail sales. Mr. Moriarty confirmed that they are considering this element and have reached out to Walmart as well as Amazon as stakeholders, particularly with “last mile” issues. Mr. Moriarty noted that this is early in the process, and NMDOT is collecting this feedback now. Mr. Sanchez asked if New Mexico agricultural industry representatives were being included, and Mr. Moriarty confirmed they are included.

IX. Presentation/ Discussion: NP RTP Introduction (RTPO staff)

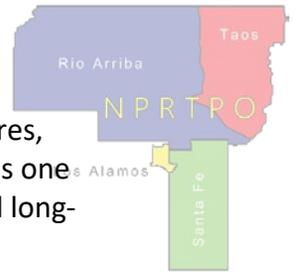
Paul Sittig, NCNMEDD, presented the updated draft of the Northern Pueblos Regional Transportation Plan (RTP), the long-range plan for the region. Mr. Sittig noted that he distributed the draft of the introduction section of the plan and asked the members if any would like to for a subcommittee to review and direct the work of the RTPO staff or present the progress to each section at the monthly RTPO meetings.

Mr. Sittig also asked the members who they wanted the plan to tailored for or addressed to the member entities, other decision-makers, or the public at large. He noted that this direction would shape how detailed the plan would be, and whether the language in the plan was more or less technical. He highlighted that he would move the Statewide and Regional Goals and Guidance from Section 1.3, in the introduction, to Section 3.3, either to pair with the general goals and strategies that were present in the prior NP RTP or replace them with NMDOT’s current Objectives and Performance Measures for Safety, Mobility & Access, Program Delivery, and Asset Management.

Mr. Sittig noted that the draft introduction presented the region in a way that could be helpful for someone who was unfamiliar with the counties, and that Section 2 would go into more detail of the individual tribal and local communities. The plan is presented as a broad, general document, setting out long-term goals for the region. Section 1.2 describes the RTPO, its staffing, and compliance with the Title VI of the Civil Rights Act.

On the inclusion of NMDOT’s Objectives and Performance Measures, Mr. Sittig noted that some are focused on state facilities and not the tribal and local roadways. Safety and Asset Management goals are statewide, but Mobility & Access and Asset Management are focused on Interstates and the National Highway System, which are predominantly owned and managed by NMDOT. Mr. Sittig also noted that much of New Mexico, including the Northern Pueblos region, is free from significant air quality concerns that are some of the Program Delivery performance measures.

Mr. Sittig did note that if members were to look at the performance measures as general goals for the region, they could benefit the communities and projects, but



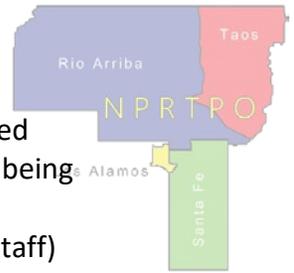
stressed that due to the focus on NMDOT facilities in these performance measures, some improvements might not provide the boost to ranking or prioritization as is one goal for including the NMDOT’s goals and performance measures in the regional long-range plan.

Keith Wilson, Los Alamos County, noted that on the MPO side, the NMDOT system was considered alongside the city infrastructure, and noted that the NMDOT network is an important backbone in the region, and suggested a holistic approach would be beneficial in the NPRTPO region, too. Including NMDOT projects and priorities could help tribal and local communities align their projects with NMDOT projects. Brent Jaramillo, Taos County, voiced support for Mr. Wilson’s comments.

Joe Sanchez noted that the “useful life” metric didn’t have an associated outcome and asked how funding balances would be equitably treated between rural and urban areas because their needs and modes are vastly different. Mr. Sittig replied, first clarifying that his earlier suggestion was not to disregard the NMDOT’s infrastructure, but to highlight that the NMDOT’s performance measures were focused on the condition of their facilities. He noted that aligning local efforts with the NMDOT’s goals would benefit the region, and he will copy the list of regional projects from the State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) into the NP RTP to identify near-term projects and priorities of NMDOT in the region.

Speaking to Mr. Sanchez’s question about funding balance, Mr. Sittig noted that the RTPO has no funding authority or ability to manage funding directly, but rather provides recommendations to NMDOT based on the priority projects from member entities. He also noted that we could identify how tribal and local priority projects might align or intersect with NMDOT projects to improve coordination with NMDOT. Mr. Sittig noted that the RTPO members could pursue different funding sources, but there were no assurances that those funds would be awarded to any specific projects, though NMDOT and the Federal Highway Administration have methods to ensure some equity in funding distribution.

Chair O’Donnell asked members to identify who was interested in a subcommittee to guide and review development of the plan. She asked Mr. Wilson to join the committee if he thought it was something to support, and he confirmed he would join. He also noted that a smaller group could be able to provide more guidance, and they could report back to the full RTPO Board. Chair O’Donnell asked when the RTP was due to be completed, and Mr. Sittig noted that there is no fixed deadline, but it had been in development for a while now. Bryce Gibson, NCRTD, volunteered to join the committee, as did Jason Silva, Taos County. Rosa Kozub, NMDOT, noted that the new planning liaison would also be able to assist with the effort. Chair O’Donnell asked if Joe Sanchez would be interested in joining. He confirmed his availability to review the RTP.



Chair O'Donnell noted that the committee meetings could delve into the intended audience of the plan, and stated the plan should be for the members, as well as being something the public could understand.

X. Presentation/ Discussion: Transportation Project Fund preparations (RTPO staff)

Paul Sittig, NCNMEDD, presented a summary of the FY 2023 state Transportation Project Fund (TPF) call for projects, noting that it is likely that the funding amount for FY 2023 will be well above the annual \$40 million statewide pot, with NMDOT Secretary Sandoval mentioning at the January 6, 2022, State Transportation Commission that there could be an additional \$80 million, for a total of \$120 million available in this call. Mr. Sittig presented a preliminary schedule:

- **Jan. 31, 2022** – NMDOT issued call for FY 2023 TPF projects
- **March 2, 2022** – NPRTPO meeting where final TPF rating criteria is agreed upon, and members identify their preliminary project ideas
- **April 6, 2022** – entities submit TPF PFFs to NPRTPO staff, who ensure the applications are complete, then send applications to District 5 staff for review
- **April 6, 2022** – NPRTPO meeting where members discuss the application process and ask any questions they have for District 5 or NPRTPO staff
- **April 27, 2022** – District 5 staff return signed PFFs to NPRTPO staff and applicants
- **May 4, 2022** – NPRTPO meeting for FY 2023 TPF rating and ranking only
- **May 27, 2022** – NPRTPO staff submit final 2023 TPF applications to NMDOT
- **Sept. 1, 2022** – deadline for State Transportation Commission to select final awardees
- **1st week of Sept. 2022** – NMDOT sends out award letters
- **End of Sept. 2022** – Match Waiver Requests due from applicants to NMDOT

Mr. Sittig said he would work with members who are pursuing match waivers throughout the summer to ensure they're ready well ahead of the request deadline.

Mr. Sittig went on to present on the RTIPR process:

1. **A TLPA identifies their priority project(s)** through local planning process, ideally one that includes the opportunity for public input
2. **The TLPA completes a Project Prospectus Form (PPF)** for each project, which specifies key details of the project
3. **The TLPA submits the completed PPF** to the RTPO Planner for review and discussion.
4. The Northern Pueblos RTPO holds its annual project rating and ranking in its April or May meeting each year, where:
 - a. Each TLPA presents their project(s)
 - b. Members rate the projects
 - c. RTPO staff compile the ranking
5. Once approved by the NPRTPO Board, the **ranked project list is the new Northern Pueblos RTIPR.**



Mr. Sittig noted that while we are currently focused on the FY 2023 TPF call for projects, <https://build.gov> has information on 380 continuing and new federal funding opportunities, which go to state, tribal, and local public agencies. He noted that the RTIPR was initially set up for projects that were to go onto the STIP but can also be used to regionally vet projects that are submitted to other competitive application processes.

Mr. Sittig presented the FY 2022 TPF rating and ranking criteria:

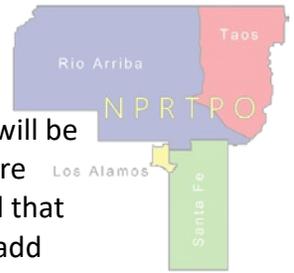
- **Planning** – Secured other funding sources (no federal funding except TTP), matching funds (0-5 points)
- **Planning** – Support from existing planning documents and/or federal or state agencies/STIP/RTIPR or State List (0-5 points)
- **Project Description/Type/Scope** – Location of project, development clearly outlined (0-5 points)
- **Project Description/Type/Scope** – Level of coordination with RTPO, NMDOT, and district engineers in project development and compliance (0-5 points)
- **Justification** – Economic impact (improve access to jobs and tourism), need for project clearly outlined (0-5 points)
- **Justification** – Improves quality of life/promotes safety/ environmental sustainability (0-5 points)
- **Request Readiness** – Right of way acquisition and clearances, shovel readiness, planning documents, environmental clearances, project timeline (0-10 points)
- **2022 TPF Additions** – Priority Bridge? (0-1 point, yes/no)
- **2022 TPF Additions** – Part of a Phased Project?* (0-1 point, yes/no)

Maximum of 42 points

* TPF funding cannot be used if a prior or future phase will use federal funding, except for Tribal Transportation Program (TTP) funds.

Keith Wilson asked for Mr. Sittig to clarify whether he proposed to include FY 2023 TPF applications in an annual NPRTPO RTIPR update, and Mr. Sittig confirmed that was his suggestion. Mr. Sittig presented his proposed RTIPR structure, combining all proposed projects into one list with new columns for project type and eligibility, as well as the project average score.

Ron Shutiva, NMDOT, reminded members to review the FY 2023 TPF call for projects. He noted that while TTP funding is eligible for use as match for state funds but would incur federal requirements for the project. He also suggested that members prioritize TPF as a funding source because there are fewer requirements as compared to federal funding. Mr. Shutiva suggested that members review their ICIPs to identify priority projects, and consider phasing projects, as TPF funds can be used for project planning and design. Mr. Shutiva also suggested that members review their project estimates, particularly as project costs are increasing significantly, due to increasing materials costs, and consider pursuing match waiver if the community doesn't have match funding.



Christy Ladd, Ohkay Owingeh, noted that their Highway 74 Intersection project will be fully funded through support from NMDOT, but was concerned that TPF funds are ineligible where federal funds were provided for prior project phases. She noted that Secretary Sandoval said that he would investigate this requirement again. Ms. Ladd asked Mr. Shutiva to look into this, and he said he would.

Brent Jaramillo, Taos County, supported separate prioritized project lists for different funding types, and asked Mr. Sittig if there would be a call for STIP projects this year. Mr. Sittig noted that NMDOT has different calls for different federal funding sources. He noted that the RTIPR could be restructured to list the same application with different funding requests if the members wanted to include this option.

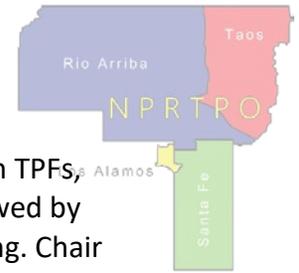
Mr. Sittig also noted that the reason NMDOT had given in the past for TPF funds not being eligible for a project with prior or future federal funds was due to the addition of federal requirements, which could slow down a project. TPF is intended to get projects funded and built in a shorter timeframe than is necessary for some federal procedures.

Mr. Jaramillo identified a county project that would be a State lead, a signal light in Ranchos on a state-owned highway, but he didn't think that it made sense for the County to pursue funding for this project. He also suggested that attendance to NPRTO meetings could factor into project application scores. Mr. Jaramillo commented that shovel-ready projects could also be prioritized, noting that the County's Blueberry Hill Road received Capital Outlay for design and engineering and was now shovel-ready, but had not yet received construction funding.

Keith Wilson noted that it's easier to apply for specific calls for projects, rather than submitting prioritized projects all at once, and projects that were previously prioritized but unfunded could be included in a lengthier list of past priorities. Mr. Wilson also asked that members keep presentations to a 5- or 10-minute limit to keep the rating meetings short.

Chair O'Donnell supported the plan for a separate TPF application priority list and asked to review the 2022 TPF application list to see what was funded and what was not funded. Chair O'Donnell asked that the next meeting include confirmation of FY 2023 TPF application deadlines, length of presentations, and specify that the application is for tribal, county and village roads (*and other transportation infrastructure, as is eligible under the TPF legislation*). She stated there should be one presentation day, and any entity interested in TPF funding should be in attendance and present that day. Chair O'Donnell asked Mr. Sittig for a short PowerPoint template to help members keep their presentations succinct.

Mr. Sittig confirmed that he sent out the FY 2023 TPF Call for Projects, and the application deadline is the end of May 2022, with RTPO Staff to present the final applications to NMDOT on behalf of the members.



Chair O’Donnell stated that the March 2022 NPRTPO meeting will be focused on TPFs, with entities providing their preliminary projects for Mr. Sittig to compile, followed by presentations in April 2022, which should be the entirety of the NPRTPO meeting. Chair O’Donnell asked Ms. Ladd to elaborate on the TPF funds not being eligible for projects with prior federal funds.

Ms. Ladd noted that because the Highway 74 project followed a federally funded study, the project was ineligible for TPF funding. Mr. Sittig presented language from the FY 2022 TPF FAQ, which states “the scope of work being submitted cannot be identical to a federally funded project. Per the final rule, federal funds may not be used as part of a TPF funded project, with the exception of Tribal Transportation Funds, which Tribal Entities may use as their match, but this must be disclosed on the application.” Chair O’Donnell asked Mr. Shutiva how this could be addressed, and he noted he would get clarification on this requirement.

Brent Jaramillo noted that there is around \$500 million coming to NMDOT for transportation project funding, including funding for EV chargers, and asked whether any would be allocated for tribal and local projects via RTPOs, or through the Districts. James Mexia, NMDOT, isn’t aware of how these funds might be directed or programmed but surmised that the increase in TPF funding might reflect the influx of funding to NMDOT. Chair O’Donnell asked if that federal funding is being redirected as state TPF funding. Mr. Sittig noted that the FY 2023 increase in TPF funding has been discussed in reference to increased oil and gas revenues in New Mexico and is not redirected federal funding.

Keith Wilson asked whether NPRTPO members would want to postpone rating and ranking until the May meeting instead of the April meeting. Chair O’Donnell asked that members present the name of a project at the March meeting and supported Mr. Wilson’s suggestion for rating and ranking in May.

Chair O’Donnell asked if rating and ranking scores should consider NPRTPO attendance. Patrick Nicholson, Village of Taos Ski Valley, supported the comment by Mr. Jaramillo to add a rating weight for attendance. Mr. Wilson asked Mr. Sittig if attendance was mentioned in the bylaws. Chair O’Donnell asked Mr. Sittig to review the bylaws, and he displayed and read the following section: “C. Meeting attendance is recognized as a valid method for adding points to the rating score of participating entities. An attendance roster will be maintained to document the number of meetings an entity attends.” Mr. Sittig noted that he has the history of who has attended prior meetings but noted that the TPF rating and ranking structure as approved does not include an attendance score. Chair O’Donnell noted that with this language in the bylaws, the RPTO is justified in adding attendance as a scoring criterion. Mr. Sittig said he would look through the RTPO records to see how this might have been included previously and present a proposed change to the rating and ranking at the next NPRTPO meeting.



XI. NMDOT Updates

James Mexia, NMDOT District 5 Technical Support Engineer, noted that while the FY 2023 TPF application deadline is May 31, 2022, the TPF PFF forms need to be reviewed by NMDOT District 5, and may need a letter of support from the District, depending on the project location.

Mr. Nicholson asked Mr. Mexia whether a resubmitted TPF PFF need a new application and letter of support, and Mr. Mexia suggested that entities do fill out new applications, particularly to update the project estimates.

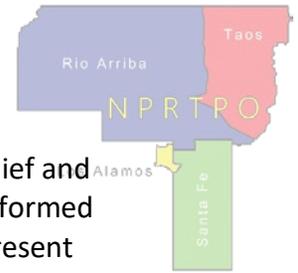
Mr. Jaramillo suggested that bridges in poor condition should rank higher in the rating and ranking process. Mr. Sittig brought up the FY 2022 TPF rating and ranking, which includes whether a project is a priority bridge. Chair O'Donnell asked whether the rating criteria should be reworded to state that the project is an NMDOT priority bridge, and Mr. Jaramillo confirmed that would help, and it could be addressed through the PFF.

Mr. Sittig noted that he has NMDOT's list of non-NMDOT bridge rankings from last year, and had requested a new bridge condition list, which he would distribute once he receives it.

Mr. Wilson asked Mr. Mexia if he had a PFF submission deadline in mind. Mr. Mexia noted that with the March meeting date including project identifications, that list of proposed projects would help the District have ample time for review and discussion with applicants. Mr. Wilson said that a PFF deadline of a couple weeks after the March meeting could work. Mr. Wilson asked if a resolution is necessary with the initial PFF, and Mr. Sittig confirmed that the PFF includes fields to indicate whether a resolution is available or not, or if it is in progress, so a resolution is not needed with the initial PFF.

Chair O'Donnell asked whether May was too late for the rating and ranking, or if April was too soon for entities to get their cost estimates. Mr. Mexia noted that knowing the priorities of the RTPO could help inform the District when considering the whether the District's priorities align. He noted the sooner the process is started, the more time they have to go back and forth to refine details. Mr. Wilson suggested considering the May meeting date as the goal to work back from for the District. Mr. Mexia said he would like to receive the PFFs by mid-March or April at latest, as he takes projects to Paul Brasher, D5 District Engineer, and Mr. Brasher always identifies items to clarify or refine with the applicants.

Chair O'Donnell tentatively set the presentation date for the April 6, 2022, meeting date, or we have a special meeting in the middle of April, to be discussed again in the March meeting.



Mr. Sittig noted that Rosa Kozub, Multimodal Planning and Programs Bureau Chief and interim NPRTPO Planning Liaison, was unable to stay on the meeting, but she informed him that the NMDOT Bridge Division is looking to reach out to the RTPOs and present updates in March or April 2022.

Ron Shutiva, NMDOT Tribal Liaison, said he had no updates at this time.

Ron Shutiva, LTAP Board, noted that due to COVID-19 safety precautions, there were no advisory committee meetings. Christy Ladd confirmed she had nothing more to add.

XIII. Member Input on Training and Presentations for NPRTPO

Chairwoman O'Donnell noted that this item had been addressed and moved on.

XIV. NPRTPO Planner/Program Manager Updates and Announcements

Paul Sittig, NCNMEDD, noted he would work with Chair O'Donnell and District 5 staff on the FY 2023 TPF schedule, and look into attendance being a consideration for rating.

XV. New Business

A. Upcoming meeting locations and topics

March 2 – focused on TPF rating and ranking, and project identification by members. Other items are postponed.

April 6 – TPF project scoring.

B. Other items from NPRTPO members or the public

Chairwoman O'Donnell asked if anyone had additional questions or comments, and there were none.

XVI. Adjourn

Chairwoman O'Donnell, Taos County, adjourned the meeting at 12:11 PM.