

Regular Meeting Minutes
 Northeast Regional Transportation Planning Organization (NERTPO)
 Hosted by the Eastern Plains Council of Governments and
 North Central New Mexico Economic Development District
 ONLINE
 February 23, 2022
 10:00 a.m.



Meeting Attendees

Present	Jason Phillips	City of Raton	Alternate
Present	Heather Dostie	City of Santa Rosa	Voting Member
Present	Bret E. Wier	Colfax County	Voting Member
Present	Robert Thompson	Colfax County	Alternate
Present	Gerald Garcia	San Miguel County	Alternate
Present	Samuel Blea	Town of Springer	Voting Member
Present	Shawn Jeffrey - Vice-Chair	Village of Cimarron	Voting Member
Present	Jeff Carr	Village of Eagle Nest	Voting Member
Present	Ralph Lopez	City of Tucumcari	Alternate
Present	Ferron Lucero	Town of Clayton	Voting Member
Present	Mary Berglund	Village of Eagle Nest	Alternate
Present	Sarah Arias	Town of Springer	Alternate
Present	Magdalena Sandoval	Mora County	Alternate
Present	Ken Flores	Guadalupe County	Alternate
Present	Julie Kulhan	Village of Angel Fire	Alternate
Present	Monica Abeyta	Guadalupe County	Voting Member
Present	Clay Kiesling	Union County	Voting Member
Present	Daniel Gurule	City of Las Vegas	Voting Member
Present	Larry Moore	Quay County	Voting Member
Present	John N. Romero	Mora County	Voting Member
Present	Danny Laumbach	Village of Roy	Voting Member
Present	Daniel Zamora	Quay County	Alternate
Absent	Cynthia Lee	Village of San Jon	Voting Member
Absent	Ernest Sanchez	Town of Clayton	Alternate
Absent	Carala Taylor	Village of Maxwell	Voting Member
Absent	Arnold Lopez	San Miguel County	Voting Member
Absent	Jennifer Baca	Harding County	Voting Member
Absent	Jay Ruybalid	Village of Angel Fire	Voting Member
Absent	Pedro Laumbach	Harding County	Alternate
Absent	Clayton Moore	Village of Roy	Alternate
Absent	Scott Berry	City of Raton	Voting Member
Absent	Vacant	City of Las Vegas	Alternate



Absent	Martin Martinez	City of Santa Rosa	Alternate
Absent	Vicki Strand	City of Tucumcari	Voting Member
Absent	Angie Gonzales	Union County	Alternate
Absent	Renee Ledoux	Village of Cimarron	Alternate
Absent	Jonathan Valdez	Village of Des Moines	Voting Member
Absent	Jordan Wingo	Village of Des Moines	Alternate
Absent	Diane Brown	Village of Folsom	Voting Member
Absent	Mike Schoonover	Village of Folsom	Alternate
Absent	Lynn Wiseman	Village of Grenville	Alternate
Absent	Mignon Saddoris	Village of Grenville	Voting Member
Absent	Shannon Aikman	Village of House	Voting Member
Absent	Sherwin W. Martin	Village of House	Alternate
Absent	Dave Shivers	Village of Logan	Alternate
Absent	Scott Parnell	Village of Logan	Voting Member
Absent	Shawn Jeffrey - Vice-Chair	Village of Maxwell	Alternate
Absent	Connie Cook	Village of Mosquero	Alternate
Absent	Daniela Johnson	Village of Mosquero	Voting Member
Absent	Telesfor Benavidez	Village of Pecos	Voting Member
Absent	Vacant	Village of Pecos	Alternate
Absent	Wade Lane	Village of San Jon	Alternate
Absent	Laudente Quintana	Village of Wagon Mound	Voting Member
Absent	Nora Sanchez	Village of Wagon Mound	Alternate

RTPO Planners, NMDOT Staff, and other attendees

Christopher Madrid – North Central NM Economic Development District (NCNMEDD)
 Paul Sittig– North Central NM Economic Development District (NCNMEDD)
 Raul Rodriguez III – Eastern Plains Council of Governments (EPCOG)
 Kyla Danforth – North Central NM Economic Development District (NCNMEDD)
 Samantha Sandoval – NMDOT LGRF Program Planner
 John Herrera – NMDOT District 4 Assistant Engineer

Martin Ortega – New Mexico Finance Authority
 Ryan Olguin - New Mexico Finance Authority
 Mark Montoya - New Mexico Finance Authority
 A Lopez - New Mexico Finance Authority
 Carmella Manzanari - New Mexico Finance Authority
 Danielle Duran - New Mexico Finance Authority
 Jeff Vigil – NMDOT Bridge Management Engineer
 Ben Najera – NMDOT Bridge Management Assistant Engineer



I. Call to Order

The Meeting was called to order at 10:05 AM by Vice-Chairwoman Shawn Jeffrey.

II. Pledge of Allegiance/New Mexico State Flag

The Pledge of Allegiance and salute to the New Mexico State Flag were led by Vice-Chairwoman Shawn Jeffrey.

III. Welcome

Vice-Chairwoman Shawn Jeffrey welcomed everyone to the virtual meeting and allowed for introductions.

Individual introductions were conducted by all in attendance.

IV. Approval of Agenda

Vice-Chairwoman Shawn Jeffrey opened the review and approval of the agenda. Motion to approve the agenda as presented: Jason Phillips, City of Raton
Second: Robert Thompson, Colfax County

Roll call:

Entity	Representative	Vote
Colfax County	Robert Thompson	Yes
Guadalupe County	Monica Abeyta	Yes
Mora County	Magdalena Sandoval	Yes
San Miguel County	Gerald Garcia	Yes
Quay County	Larry Moore	Yes
Union County	Clay Kiesling	Yes
City of Las Vegas	Daniel Gurule	Yes
City of Raton	Jason Phillips	Yes
City of Tucumcari	Ralph Lopez	Yes
City of Santa Rosa	Heather Dostie	Yes
Town of Clayton	Ferron Lucero	Yes
Town of Springer	Samuel Blea	Yes
Village of Angel Fire	Julie Kulhan	Yes
Village of Cimarron	Vice Chair Shawn Jeffrey	Yes
Village of Eagle Nest	Jeff Carr	Yes
Village of Roy	Danny Laumbach	Yes

All present voted in the affirmative. Motion carries.

V. Approval of Minutes January 2022 – (EPCOG and NCNMEDD virtual)



Vice-Chairwoman Shawn Jeffrey opened the review and approval of the minutes from the January 26th, 2021, monthly meeting. With no comments provided, the Vice-Chairwoman moved for a motion.

Motion to approve the minutes as presented by Jason Phillips, City of Raton
 Second: Samuel Blea, Town of Springer

Roll call:

Entity	Representative	Vote
Colfax County	Robert Thompson	Yes
Guadalupe County	Monica Abeyta	Yes
Mora County	Magdalena Sandoval	Yes
San Miguel County	Gerald Garcia	Yes
Quay County	Larry Moore	Yes
Union County	Clay Kiesling	Yes
City of Las Vegas	Daniel Gurule	Yes
City of Raton	Jason Phillips	Yes
City of Tucumcari	Ralph Lopez	Yes
City of Santa Rosa	Heather Dostie	Yes
Town of Clayton	Ferron Lucero	Yes
Town of Springer	Samuel Blea	Yes
Village of Angel Fire	Julie Kulhan	Yes
Village of Cimarron	Vice Chair Shawn Jeffrey	Yes
Village of Eagle Nest	Jeff Carr	Yes
Village of Roy	Danny Laumbach	Yes

All present voted in the affirmative. Motion carries.

VI. Action: Election of Chair and Vice-Chair

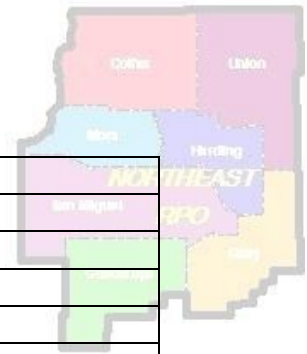
Vice-Chairwoman Jeffrey opened the action item for suggestions for nominations of Chair and Vice-Chair.

Jason Phillips, City of Raton, nominated Shawn Jeffrey, Village of Cimarron, for Chair and Bret Weir, Colfax County, seconded the nomination.

Mr. Phillips then nominated Ferron Lucero, Town of Clayton, as Vice-Chair, with Sam Blea, Town of Springer, seconding the nomination. Mr. Lucero accepted the nomination.

Vice Chair Jeffrey asked if there were any other nominations for Chair or Vice Chair. Hearing none, she then called for a roll call vote to approve the nominations.

Roll Call:



Entity	Representative	Vote
Colfax County	Robert Thompson	Yes
Guadalupe County	Monica Abeyta	Yes
Mora County	Magdalena Sandoval	Yes
San Miguel County	Gerald Garcia	Yes
Quay County	Larry Moore	Yes
Union County	Clay Kiesling	Yes
City of Las Vegas	Daniel Gurule	Yes
City of Raton	Jason Phillips	Yes
City of Tucumcari	Ralph Lopez	Yes
City of Santa Rosa	Heather Dostie	Yes
Town of Clayton	Ferron Lucero	Yes
Town of Springer	Samuel Blea	Yes
Village of Angel Fire	Julie Kulhan	Yes
Village of Cimarron	Vice Chair Shawn Jeffrey	Yes
Village of Eagle Nest	Jeff Carr	Yes
Village of Roy	Danny Laumbach	Yes

All present voted in the affirmative. Motion Carries.

VII. Discussion: FY 2023 Transportation Project Fund (TPF) schedule

Paul Sittig, NMNEMEDD, and Raul Rodriguez III, EPCOG, presented the Transportation Project Fund (TPF) Schedule they developed in coordination with NMDOT. There is an initial \$40 million that is the base budget per FY and additional \$60 million this year for a total of \$100 million. The Governor has not yet signed the bill to approve the final FY 2023 TPF funding amount. The TPF Call for Projects was issued by NMDOT in late January. The official deadline for RTPO staff to upload final TPF applications to the NMDOT FTP site is May 31, 2022. Funding for this funding program is much more flexible than federal funding. State funding with this TPF program will not allow for federal match funding. There is a frequently asked questions document that has been distributed by NMDOT Project Oversight Division (POD) last year, which notes that a prohibition of non-cash matches such as; in-kind match, services rendered, soft-matches, staff time, or provided donations. There is a strict five percent (5%) cash local match that may be waived if the entity applies for and is approved a match waiver. Plan for projects to cost more than last year and apply for at least a thirty-five percent (35%) contingency buffer. Utilities and waste-water costs may be included into the project scope and cost but may not be applied for as stand-alone projects (*John Herrera, District 4 LGRF Project Coordinator later confirmed that drainage and utility work can be included if the main project is total reconstruction of the roadway*). Jason Phillips, City of Raton, proposed a question about applying for additional funding for projects awarded for this fiscal year (FY22). Mr. John Herrera answered that Clarissa Martinez, NMDOT Project Oversight Division, responded that the funds this year cannot be applied for the projects from last year because they were not applied as phased projects. Chairwoman Jeffrey proposed a revision to the tentative timeline.

VIII. Discussion: Legislative Update: (Community Development Supervisor, NCNEMEDD)



Mr. Chris Madrid, NCMEDD Community Development Supervisor, updated membership with a Legislative Session overview of bills pertaining to transportation infrastructure for New Mexico. House Bill 173 (HB 173) Rural Infrastructure Crisis Response Act sets aside \$25 million to be available for infrastructure failures and emergencies. This bill did not move forward but will be worked on during the interim period before the next Legislative Session. The portion of this bill that did pass includes \$4.8 million for rural infrastructure emergency equipment statewide. Funding directed to COGs for assistance for grant writing and technical assistance and engineering to help projects move forward was suggested but early during the session there was a determination that this would not be accomplished, and the funding would be moved through DFA in the amount of about \$1.5 million for grants management for local governments and councils of governments. There will be an \$8 million statewide hunger initiative through the Governor's office meant to help get local produce into local communities to address hunger by using the monies for storage, equipment, and infrastructure. HB7 is the Opportunity Enterprise Act to fund commercial spaces for economic development for commercial spaces to spur economic success.

Mr. Raul Rodriguez III, EPCOG, updated the membership concerning the legislative session with bills that he has been following pertaining to economic development and transportation infrastructure. The Senate Bill 140 the Opportunity Scholarship Act passed with bipartisan support. The General Appropriation Act directs \$75 million to the scholarship program, which could support up to 35,000 students beginning this fall, or over half of all undergraduate students in New Mexico. Mr. Rodriguez III updated membership of legislation that has passed the Legislature and is awaiting the Governor's signature. A few being: House Bill 7 (Opportunity Enterprise Act), House Bill 104 (Venture Capital Program Act), House Bill 163 (Tax Changes), and House Bill 2 (General Appropriations Act). Mr. Rodriguez III advised membership of legislation that was stalled in the committee process as well like House bill 80 (Angel Investment Credit Refundable) and House Bill 129 (Business Income by Single Sales Factor). Substitute Senate Bill 212 is the Capital Outlay for this Legislative Session and has been revised with the recommendation of Legislature for funding this financial fiscal year and awaiting the Governor's signature. All bills that have passed for signature from the Governor have a deadline of March 8, 2022, for Michelle Lujan Grisham's line-item vetoes, vetoes, or signature.

Federal Laws include the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) is being changed to include Public Transportation Agency Safety Plan (PTASP) regulations. There will be a webinar on March 1, 2022, from 3:00 PM – 4:00 PM. There is the Route 66 Corridor Preservation Program which, if passed, will designate a portion of New Mexico Highway as a future interstate to help preserve historic places and stories of historic highways throughout the nation. Ferron Lucero asked a question about gross receipt taxes (GRT) and Mr. Sittig advised that information would be obtained, and he will follow up regarding this question.

IX. Discussion/Presentation: NMDOT Bridge Funding – (Jeff C. Vigil, NMDOT Bridge Management Engineer, and Ben Najera, NMDOT Bridge Management Assistant Engineer)

Mr. Jeff C. Vigil, NMDOT Management Engineer, made a presentation discussing the federal formula funds that NMDOT has obtained through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL)

allocations Expected funding for this fiscal year is a little over \$50 million or about \$250 million over the next five (5) years. Funding in Current Transportation Asset Management Plan (TAMP), pre-BIL:



- \$40 Million/Year NHS Funding
- \$20 Million/Year Non-NHS Funding
- \$14 Million/Year Bridge Preservation Program Funding
 - \$11 Million/Year for NHS Bridge Preservation
 - \$2 Million/Year for Non-NHS Bridge Preservation
 - \$1 Million/Year for NMSU Bridge Inspections

Plan for Spending Additional BIL Funds

- Additional \$45 Million/Year for Next 5 Years (Federal Bridge Formula Funding)
- \$11 Million/Year Will be Added to Bridge Preservation Program Fund increasing it to \$25 Million/Year
- \$11 Million/Year Will be Put Towards Non-NHS Bridges
- Minimum of 15% Goes to Local Governments (Minimum \$6.75 Million/Year)
- Remaining Money (Maximum \$27.25 Million/Year) Goes to Underfunded NMDOT Projects under Development & Other Projects Identified Through the Bridge Priority Lists.

If divided by NMDOT District, funding for non-NHS bridges would be a little over \$1 million a year per district over the next five (5) year period, at a minimum. The Bridge Management Department has been tasked with compiling MPO and RTPO input regarding NMDOT bridge prioritization and use of these funds. This funding is federal and does not have any local match requirements and the Bridge Management Department will assist with development of projects for local and smaller entities to the furthest extent of their ability to expend all available funding.

The NMDOT Bridge Management presentation includes the following

- NMDOT Bridge Inspection Program
- Assessing bridge condition
- Prioritization using AASHTOWare BrM
- Funding in the current TAMP
- Plan for spending additional funds
- Escalation in bridge costs
- Northeast RTPO bridge conditions

NMDOT is responsible for inspection of ALL NMDOT owned and Local Government owned bridges beginning in 1972. Local Governments are responsible for maintenance of their owned bridges.

Only bridges greater than (>) 20 feet and 0 inches (20'0") in length are considered bridges including some culverts.

National Highway Performance Program has performance measures for assessing bridge conditions which are as follows:

- Condition Ratings contain Deck, Superstructure, Substructure and Culvert.
- Bridge Condition
 - Good – Lowest rating 7, 8, or 9
 - Fair – Lowest rating 5 or 6
 - Poor – Lowest rating 0, 1, 2, 3, or 4
 - Structurally Deficient is considered in Poor Condition



Mr. Ben Najera went on to show membership how NMDOT Bridge Management Division uses the AASHTOWare BrM software to analyze bridges and prioritizes them.

Mr. Najera also explained funding in the current Transportation Asset Management Plan (TAMP) that contains about \$60 million per year for funding prior to the introduction of new funding being received this financial fiscal year. The Bipartisan infrastructure Law (BIL) establishes the Bridge Formula program to replace, rehabilitate, preserve, protect, or construct highway bridges on public roads. The BIL will provide about \$27.5 billion nationwide.

Mr. Najera and Mr. Vigil updated membership about the escalation in bridge costs.

Mr. Najera and Mr. Vigil presented a table with information of bridge condition, location, ownership/location for bridges within the NERTPO. There is also a section for what type of work recommendation that the NMDOT has issued for bridges and will provide this list to membership for review and NERTPO recommendation for prioritization of these bridges for funding.

Membership and RTPO Planning staff proposed opinions about the prioritization of these bridges. Mr. Rodriguez III, EPCOG, suggested that we issue an agenda item in the subsequent meeting to discuss and approve the NMDOT Bridge Prioritization List as presented by the NMDOT Bridge Management Division or to send out a survey after the meeting to inquire membership opinion regarding approval of this list or development of a new prioritization method. Mr. Sittig, NCNMEDD, suggested we obtain the entire list of priority bridges and not fully rate/prioritize them but have counties/municipalities to evaluate the list to ensure integrity of the NMDOT Bridge Priority List. Commissioner Bret Weir commented about the rating and ranking prioritization process of the NERTPO and suggested the NERTPO apply this method to the bridge prioritization. Chairwoman Jeffrey suggested we send out a survey to membership prior to next meeting asking for either support of the current NMDOT Bridge Prioritization List or comments on a new way to prioritize these bridges and compile this information before the next meeting with an agenda item for approval of NMDOT's list with supporting survey information.

X. Discussion: RTP Update – (RTPO Planners and NCNMEDD Transportation Intern)

Mr. Paul Sittig, NCNMEDD, suggested we table this item until the next meeting because the meeting is running short on time. Chairwoman Jeffrey stated since this agenda item is a discussion item that there is no requirement for a formal motion and roll call to table this item. Item X (ten) will be tabled until the subsequent meeting.



XI. Discussion: NERTPO Planners/Program Manager Reports (NERTPO Planners)

Mr. Sittig reiterated that the TPF is of the utmost concern at this moment in time. Planners will also continue to work on the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and continue monitoring legislation on a state and federal level.

Mr. Rodriguez III had no further updates.

XII. Discussion: NMDOT District IV Update (Mr. James M. Gallegos, PE – NMDOT District IV Engineer and NMDOT Staff)

Mr. John Herrera updated membership about STIP projects. LGRF deadline for solicitation is March 15, 2022. Send in Capital Outlay reimbursements to Samantha Sandoval. Any LGRF closeouts and reimbursements must be sent in as soon as possible. MAP agreements expire in June. Please keep them up to date and request needed information from NMDOT as needed.

XIII. Discussion: Project Status Update (Local Government Members)

Julie Kulhan updated membership about 2 projects in Angel Fire that went out to bid and were seriously overbid. They are going back out to bid.

XIV. New Business

- A. General Comments and Announcements from NERTPO members and Public Comment.
Mr. Gerald Garcia asked about federal program notice of funding for TAP, RTP and CMAQ. Mr. Sittig and Mr. Rodriguez III updated him about the status of the funding.
- B. Suggested Agenda items for upcoming meetings – nothing presented by members.
Bridge Prioritization, RTP update and TPF discussion.
- C. Meeting Location Amendments – to be virtual, until the health advisory status changes.
Membership is fine with either in-person or virtual options. Hybrid option should be instituted. Maybe a quarterly in-person and hybrid virtual meeting.

- ❖ **March 23, 2022**– Virtual
- ❖ **April 27, 2022** – TBD
- ❖ **May 25, 2022** – TBD
- ❖ **June 22, 2022** - TBD

XV. Adjournment

With there being no further business to discuss, Chair Jeffrey asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Jason Phillips, City of Raton, made the motion, and Robert Thompson, Colfax County, seconded the motion. Chair Jeffrey adjourned the meeting adjourned at 12:15 PM.