

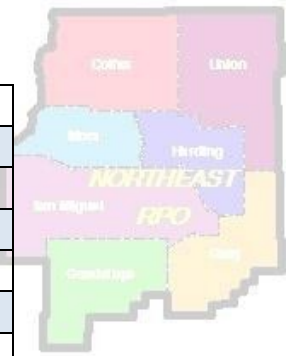
Regular Meeting Minutes
 Northeast Regional Transportation Planning
 Organization (NERTPO) Hosted by the Eastern Plains
 Council of Governments and
 North Central New Mexico Economic Development
 District
 Hybrid in person/online
 Quay County Fairgrounds 1004 Camino Del Coronado
 Tucumcari, NM 87718
 July 27ⁿ, 2022
 10:00 a.m.



Meeting Attendees

Present	Shawn Jeffrey - Chairwoman	Village of Cimarron	Voting Member
Present	Julie Kulhan	Village of Angel Fire	Alternate
Present	Rebecca Benavidez	Guadalupe County	Voting Member
Present	Arnold Lopez	City of Las Vegas	Voting Member
Present	Larry Moore	Quay County	Voting Member
Present	Danny Laumbach	Village of Roy	Voting Member
Present	Daniel Zamora	Quay County	Alternate
Present	Gerald Garcia	San Miguel County	Voting Member
Present	Dallas Baker	Village of Mosquero	Voting Member
Present	Heather Dostie	City of Santa Rosa	Voting Member
Present	Jeff Carr	Village of Eagle Nest	Voting Member
Present	Jason Phillips	City of Raton	Alternate
Present	Robert Thompson	Colfax County	Alternate
Present	Ralph Lopez	City of Tucumcari	Alternate
Present	Scott Parnell	Village of Logan	Voting Member
Present	John N. Romero	Mora County	Voting Member
Present	Kenny Flores	City of Santa Rosa	Alternate
Present	Brandy Thomas	Union County	Alternate
Absent	Ferron Lucero - Vice- Chair	Town of Clayton	Voting Member
Absent	Clay Kiesling	Union County	Voting Member
Absent	Ernest Sanchez	Town of Clayton	Alternate
Absent	Bret E. Wier	Colfax County	Voting Member
Absent	Sarah Arias	Town of Springer	Alternate
Absent	Samuel Blea	Town of Springer	Voting Member
Absent	Cynthia Lee	Village of San Jon	Voting Member
Absent	Scott Berry	City of Raton	Voting Member
Absent	Wade Lane	Village of San Jon	Alternate
Absent	Vicki Strand	City of Tucumcari	Voting Member
Absent	Mary Berglund	Village of Eagle Nest	Alternate

Absent	Magdalena Sandoval	Mora County	Alternate
Absent	Rudy Tenorio	Guadalupe County	Alternate
Absent	Vacant	San Miguel County	Alternate
Absent	Carala Taylor	Village of Maxwell	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	Vacant	City of Las Vegas	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 Sadoris	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	Shawn Jeffrey	Village of Maxwell	Alternate
Absent	Barbara June Melton	Village of Mosquero	Alternate
Absent	Telesfor Benavidez	Village of Pecos	Voting Member
Absent	Vacant	Village of Pecos	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

- 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)
- John Herrera – NMDOT LGRF Program Coordinator
- Samantha Sandoval – NMDOT LGRF Program Planner
- Neala Krueger – NMDOT Urban & Regional Planner Supervisor Government to Government Unit Multimodal Planning and Programs Bureau
- Benito Romero – San Miguel County,
- Monty Torie – Colfax County
- Niva Romero – Stantec Engineering
- Alex Clegg – USDOT ROUTES Initiative



I. Call to Order

The Meeting was called to order at 10:02 AM by 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 Chairwoman Jeffrey.

III. Welcome

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

Individual introductions were conducted by all in attendance.

IV. Approval of Agenda

Chairwoman Jeffrey opened the review and approval of the agenda with an Amendment to Agenda Item VII moved to Item V and revised to be presented by Mr. Alex Clegg, USDOT. 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	Rebecca Avalos	Yes
Mora County	John Romero	Yes
Quay County	Larry Moore	Yes
San Miguel County	Gerald Garcia	Yes
Union County	Brandy Thompson	Yes
City of Las Vegas	Arnold Lopez	Yes
City of Raton	Jason Phillips	Yes
City of Tucumcari	Ralph Lopez	Yes
City of Santa Rosa	Heather Dostie	Yes
Village of Angel Fire	Julie Kulhan	Yes
Village of Cimarron	Chairwoman Shawn Jeffrey	Yes
Village of Eagle Nest	Jeff Carr	Yes
Village of Logan	Scott Parnell	Yes
Village of Mosquero	Dallas Baker	Yes
Village of Roy	Danny Laumbach	Yes

All present voted in the affirmative. Motion carries.

V. **Presentation: Safe Streets and Roads for All (SSS4A), Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program overview, Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) update, and ROUTES Initiative** – (Mr. Alex Clegg, USDOT ROUTES Initiative)



Mr. Alex Clegg, USDOT ROUTES Initiative, presented an abbreviated Preparing Plans for Future Opportunities slideshow that was presented at the NADO RTPO Conference.

The Rural Opportunities to Use Transportation for Economic Success (ROUTES) Initiative aims to address disparities in rural Transportation Infrastructure and improve safety, mobility, and economic competitiveness nationwide. The ROUTES Office has three (3) main objectives as follows:

- **Engage Rural Communities** through a series of events to better understand the needs and priorities of rural communities and collect essential data from stakeholders representing different communities, groups, workers, and industries to identify solutions.
- **Harmonize DOT Programs** to implement rural policy by establishing the ROUTES Council to lead and coordinate Departmental activities to implement BIL and better align new and existing funding, financing, and technical assistance programs with the needs of rural and Tribal communities.
- **Utilize a Whole-of-Government Approach** by partnering with other rural-focused federal agencies such as DOE, DOI, and USDA to expand DOT’s presence in rural America, better promote DOT’s resources to their customers, and capitalize on synergies between federal funding programs.

Mr. Clegg shared information with membership about USDOT’s website for rural resources that may be visited at [Transportation.gov/rural](https://www.transportation.gov/rural). The website provides webinars, tools and toolkits, funding opportunities, modal specific landing pages, and quarterly newsletters.

Mr. Clegg informed membership about the initiatives that USDOT is taking regarding rural EV Infrastructure. The goal for this toolkit is to help rural stakeholders scope, plan, and fund electric vehicle charging infrastructure. This toolkit identifies key stakeholders/ partners and walks through a project planning checklist. The toolkit lists federal funding and financing programs, eligibility criteria, and compiles helpful tools and resources for cost analysis, charging needs assessment, and equitable planning.

Mr. Clegg informed membership of the USDOT rural grant applicant toolkit also available to the public. This toolkit is designed to help applicants understand the USDOT discretionary grant programs and the funding process. This resource identifies USDOT discretionary grant funding opportunities for rural transportation projects and lists grant programs by applicant type and eligible project activities in a USDOT Discretionary Grant Funding Matrix. The resource illustrates key applicant

activities when participating in the USDOT discretionary grants process and compiles helpful tools and resources for applicants to maximize the potential for award success.



Mr. Clegg presented an overview of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) for rural America. There will be, at least, \$20 billion over the next five (5) years for rural transportation infrastructure. There will be increased funding for programs that contain rural set-asides like RAISE and INFRA but will also fund new rural surface transportation grants programs. The BIL will codify the ROUTES Initiative and the ROUTES Council. Mr. Clegg provided links to membership. Mr. Clegg shared a spreadsheet with active and upcoming NOFOs (Notice of Funding Opportunity) with members. The spreadsheet tracks currently open and upcoming opportunities and is updated frequently. Membership may visit <https://www.transportation.gov/rural/funding-opportunities>.

Mr. Clegg spotlighted the Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) and Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program. An overview of the SS4A grant program was given. The grant supports local initiatives to prevent transportation-related deaths by development and implementation of Safety Action Plans. Two (2) different types of grants are available: development of the Safety Action Plan, and implementation of the Safety Action Plan. Funding is \$5 billion (FFY22-26) over the next five (5) years with about \$1 billion per year. At least forty percent (40%) will be set aside for the planning grants. Eligible entities include MPOs, Local Governments, and Tribal Governments. Projects that are eligible include: developing or updating a comprehensive Safety Action Plan, Planning, Design and Development activities in support of an Action Plan, and implementing projects and strategies identified in an Action Plan. There is a maximum of eighty percent (80%) federal funding. This FFY22 NOFO released May 16, 2022, and deadline for completed application submittal is September 15, 2022. Applicants must reply “YES” to a pre-determined minimum number of questions on the SS4A Self-Certification Eligibility Worksheet provided on the website where the NOFO is submitted. An overview of the new Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program was given. The goal of this grant is to reconnect communities divided by transportation infrastructure. There about \$1 billion (FFY22-26) and about \$250 million set aside for planning grants. Eligible entities for planning grants are State, Local, Tribal Governments, MPOs, and Nonprofit Organizations. Capital grant eligible entities are owners of eligibility facility that may be alone or in partnership with any eligible planning entity. Eligible project scope is removal, retrofit, mitigation, or replacement of a highway or other transportation facility that creates a barrier to community connectivity, including barriers to mobility, access, or economic development, due to high speeds, grade separations, or other design factors. Also, replacement of an eligible facility with a new facility that: restores community connectivity, is sensitive to the context of the surrounding community, and is otherwise eligible for federal funding. There is a maximum eighty percent (80%) federal funding with the FFY22

NOFO released June 30, 2022, and a deadline for completed application submittal on October 13, 2022.



Mr. Rodriguez III emphasized that there is grant administration allowable costs in the grant’s parameters. Mr. Clegg and Mr. Rodriguez III inquired that local matching funding may be state funds and not federal funds. Once must be careful about what type of funding is secured to match the federal funds. Chairwoman Jeffrey asked about grant writing capabilities of the COGs. Mr. Rodriguez III informed membership that EPCOG and NCNMEDD both have grant administrator positions that may help entities with their applications. Please speak with your state representation to ensure that funding opportunities are available for COGs capacity to help local membership with grant administration. Mr. Clegg informed membership that about forty percent (40%) of the BIL will go to undeserved or disadvantaged communities.

VI. Approval of Minutes June 22nd, 2022, Regular Meeting – (EPCOG and NCNMEDD hybrid)

Chairwoman Jeffrey opened the review and approval of the minutes from the June 22nd, 2022, Rating and Ranking meeting. With no comments provided, the Chairwoman asked for a motion.

Motion to approve the minutes as presented by Robert Thompson, Colfax County
 Second: Jason Phillips, City of Raton

Roll Call:

Entity	Representative	Vote
Colfax County	Robert Thompson	Yes
Guadalupe County	Rebecca Avalos	Yes
Mora County	John Romero	Yes
Quay County	Larry Moore	Yes
San Miguel County	Gerald Garcia	Yes
Union County	Brandy Thompson	Yes
City of Las Vegas	Arnold Lopez	Yes
City of Raton	Jason Phillips	Yes
City of Tucumcari	Ralph Lopez	Yes
City of Santa Rosa	Heather Dostie	Yes
Village of Angel Fire	Julie Kulhan	Yes
Village of Cimarron	Chairwoman Shawn Jeffrey	Yes
Village of Eagle Nest	Jeff Carr	Yes
Village of Logan	Scott Parnell	Yes
Village of Mosquero	Dallas Baker	Yes
Village of Roy	Danny Laumbach	Yes

All present voted in the affirmative. Motion carries.



VII. Presentation: NMDOT State Freight Plan update (NERTPO Planners)

Mr. Sittig, NCNMEDD, presented the FFY 2023 NMDOT State Freight Plan update. There was a Freight Transportation Advisory Committee meeting July 15, 2022. Mr. Sittig advised membership about the team members that are involved with the plan's update. There were also acknowledgements to NMDOT partners who assisted with this update. Mr. Rodriguez III, EPCOG, presented the Freight Division's project timeline. Mr. Rodriguez III advised membership of the Freight Plan's goals that closely mirror the 2045 New Mexico Long Range Plan Goals. These include Safety, Asset Management, Mobility and Accessibility, and Program Delivery. Mr. Rodriguez III provided survey preliminary results from the previous Freight Advisory Committee meeting. Mr. Sittig presented information on the National Highway Freight Network. The BIL expands eligible mileage for Critical Rural Freight Corridors (CRFC) to allow six hundred (600) miles or twenty-five percent (25%) of Primary Highway Freight System mileage in the state, whichever is greater. Also, the Critical Urban Highway Freight Corridors (CUFC) designation to allow one hundred and fifty (150) miles or thirty percent (30%) mileage in state, whichever is greater. Mr. Rodriguez III informed membership about identification of congestion and restriction bottlenecks throughout the state. In District 4 a bottleneck in Raton is identified as number four (4) within the top eleven (11) ranked based on Average Bottleneck Score with an average of 31.10. NMDOT defined bottlenecks as segments scored at or greater than twenty (20) points. Bottleneck segments were combined into a full corridor if there consisted of nearby segments that scored at or greater than 20 points and are within 1 mile. Mr. Sittig presented NMDOT Data and Methods regarding Truck Parking. The NDMOT Freight Division provides a summary of Estimated Inventory of Truck Parking in the presentation. There is a wide range of facilities that provide truck parking in the state and are as follows: Public Rest Areas, Love's Truck Stop, Pilot/Flying J Truck Stop, Walmart, and other Types. The Number of facilities per each category and number of parking spaces were later identified in a table. The data shows that the public rest areas are found to be severely lacking in both counts. Maps were then presented with this information. Areas where truck parking may be needed were identified. Crowdsourced "Informal parking areas" along I-40, I-25, and US 54 were of note to District 4. According to the 2020 Truck Driver and Dispatcher Baseline Survey, truck parking along New Mexico's stretch of I-10 is not sufficient to meet demand: About 40% of survey respondents say that parking at public rest areas is never or rarely available and about 29% report that parking at private locations is never or rarely available. Maps were then presented with information. Mr. Sittig presented NMDOT 2021 Strategic Highway Safety Plan information as accumulated by NMDOT Freight Division. The goals of this plan include encouraging trucking companies and other fleet operators to implement fatigue management programs for their drivers. Reducing fatigue-related crashes by installing additional parking spaces at private rest areas. Promoting development and deployment of truck safety technologies, including driver distraction mitigation measures. Promulgating Share the Road information through print and electronic media, improving work zone safety and development of public hotlines to report erratic heavy vehicle operation. Mr. Sittig informed members of international freight movement from 2017 through 2021 at the Santa Teresa, NM Border Crossing site impacting a large percentage increase of about 37% recorded throughout this period. This increase is the largest in the nation. Finally, the Freight Investment Plan (FIP) is the mechanism used to program Highway Freight Program funds by polling stakeholders about how to theoretically spend \$100 within the FIP. About \$24 was to increase freight mobility. \$25 to improve the state of good repair of existing infrastructure.

\$21 to improve freight-related safety. \$17 for multi-state planning and freight capacity. Lastly, stakeholders polled allocated \$13 to reduce environmental impacts of freight. The project timeline and next steps were presented and are projected to wrap up with the Final 2045 New Mexico Freight Plan Update being published at the end of Fall 2022. Mr. Rodriguez III ensured membership that he has proposed the inclusion of the newly designated Interstate (I-27) that will run through the northeastern area of New Mexico.



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

Raul Rodriguez III, EPCOG, updated membership about the NADO RTPO Conference that both planners have attended. The USDOT presented the same presentation at this meeting. Mr. Rodriguez III reiterated that the Councils of Governments (COGs) are able to assist local membership in applying for the federally funded BIL grants and help administer them for a cost. Mr. Rodriguez III mentioned the ROUTES Initiative and the Regional Partner Initiative again. Mr. Rodriguez III also informed membership that quarterly NMDOT Reimbursement Requests to Ms. Neala Krueger, interim NMDOT Government to Government liaison. Paul Sittig, NCNMEDD, updated membership about the Regional Transportation Plan regarding planners' efforts to continue updates and present for approval at the next meeting. Mr. Sittig informed membership regarding NCNMEDD efforts to develop transit agency initiatives for aging populations in a 5-county region (Mora, Taos, Rio Arriba, Los Alamos and Santa Fe) within their purview. This will develop solutions to fill gaps within transit and transportation for seniors and disabled adults in this region.

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

Ms. Samantha Sandoval, NMDOT District 4 LGRF Program Planner, reminded membership to ensure that match waivers are submitted before 5:00 PM on July 26th, 2022, also, ensure to submit resolutions with correct control numbers at the same time. Each NMDOT District has submitted their Transportation Project Fund (TPF) recommendations which will be approved at the State Transportation Commission (STC) August 2022 meeting. There is not as much available funding as the previous fiscal year. District 4 has submitted a recommendation of about \$27 million and a shortfall funding recommendation of about \$5 million. Mr. John Herrera, NMDOT District 4 LGRF Program Coordinator, reminded membership to complete and submit TPF project updates as soon as possible. This includes what phase and percentage of construction or completion the project is currently undergoing. Continue to send in your Capital Outlay payments. There are some entities that are not complying with this at the current time. There must be a Capital Outlay cover letter and because of this, they are being rejected. Send in FFY22 LGRF Agreements to Ms. Sandoval. Agreement packets must include Cover Letters, Estimated Cost and Quantity, and Resolutions. They will not be approved without these components. LGRF training will be conducted once in person attendance is higher to ensure that membership will attain the highest level of involvement for this training.

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

Chairwoman Jeffrey informed membership of the Village of Cimarron’s application for the Outdoor Trails Grant and was awarded \$238,000 for a new pavilion in Cimarron’s Park with a 2:1 match. The deadline for the Outdoor Quality of Life Grant is August 12 and there is no local match required.



XI. New Business

- A. General Comments and Announcements from NERTPO members and Public Comment. There being none, item closed.
- B. Suggested Agenda items for upcoming meetings – RTP updates. National NEVI plan presentation.
- C. Meeting Location Amendments – Santa Rosa, NM Blue Hole Convention Center with a hybrid virtual option

- ❖ **August 24, 2022** – Santa Rosa, NM Blue Hole Convention Center with a hybrid virtual option
- ❖ **September 28, 2022** – TBD with hybrid option
- ❖ **October 26, 2022** – TBD with hybrid option

XII. Adjournment

With there being no further business to discuss, Chairwoman Jeffrey adjourned the meeting at 11:26 AM.