

## Meeting Minutes [DRAFT]

Northern Pueblos Regional Transportation Planning Organization (NPRTPO)  
 Regular meeting hosted March 6, 2024 online via zoom and in-person at the Taos County  
 Administration Building, 105 Albright Street-Ste G, Taos, NM 87571

### NPRTPO Voting Members and Alternates

Name	Entity	Title	Present/Absent
Eric Ulibarri	Los Alamos County	Voting Member	Present
Keith Wilson	Los Alamos County	Alternate	Absent
Dennis Gallegos	Rio Arriba County	Voting Member	Present
Christine Bustos	Rio Arriba County	Alternate	Joined Late
Gary Brett Clavio	Santa Fe County	Voting Member	Absent
Michael Galizio	Santa Fe County	Alternate	Absent
Candyce O'Donnell	Taos County	Voting Member	Absent
Jason Silva	Taos County	Alternate	Present
Elijah Mares	City of Española	Voting Member	Present
Daniel Fresquez	City of Española	Alternate	Present
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	Present
Lyida Perry	Town of Taos	Alternate	Absent
Linda Calhoun	Town of Red River	Voting Member	Absent
Georgiana Rael	Town of Red River	Alternate	Absent
Maggie Valdez	Village of Chama	Voting Member	Absent
Will Donohoe	Village of Chama	Alternate	Absent
Jacob LaFore	Village of Questa	Voting Member	Present
Jason Gonzalez	Village of Questa	Alternate	Absent
Paul Castillo	Jicarilla Apache Nation	Voting Member	Present
Kathryn Valdez	Jicarilla Apache Nation	Alternate	Absent
John Vigil	Pueblo of Nambé	Voting Member	Absent
Governor Porter	Pueblo of Nambé	Alternate	Absent
Sylvia Armijo	Picuris Pueblo	Voting Member	Present
	Picuris Pueblo	Alternate	Absent
Raymond Martinez	Pueblo of San Ildefonso	Voting Member	Present
Adam Martinez	Pueblo of San Ildefonso	Alternate	Absent
Benny Lujan	Ohkay Owingeh	Voting Member	Present
Lucia Sanchez	Ohkay Owingeh	Alternate	Present
Suzette Shije (Vice Chair)	Pueblo of Santa Clara	Voting Member	Present
	Pueblo of Santa Clara	Alternate	Absent
Vernon Lujan (Chair)	Pueblo of Taos	Voting Member	Present
Reva Suazo	Pueblo of Taos	Alternate	Absent
Randy Vigil	Pueblo of Pojoaque	Voting Member	Present
Janay Chavarria	Pueblo of Pojoaque	Alternate	Absent
Anthony Mortillaro	NCRTD	Voting Member	
Bryce Gibson	NCRTD	Alternate	Present



**NCNMEDD Staff**

Felicity Fonseca	Community Development Director
Neusa McWilliams	GIS Planner
Patrick Million	Transportation Planner

**NMDOT Staff and Federal Partners**

Angelica Trujillo	NMDOT CMAQ/CRP Coordinator
Sullivan Moore	Planning Liaison, NMDOT

**Guests**

Anna Brunson	North Central RTD
Tyler Fossett	911 Division, DFA
Steve Cherry	Mayor Pro Tem, Red River, NM

**I. Call Meeting to Order**

Chair, Vernon Lujan, called the meeting to order at 10:04 AM.

**II. Pledge of Allegiance**

Patrick Million, NCNMEDD, led the pledge of allegiance.

**III. Opening Prayer**

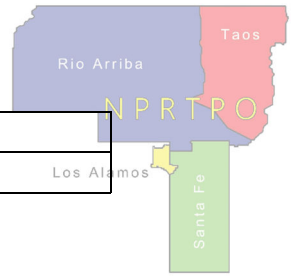
Chair Vernon Lujan, Taos Pueblo, provided the opening prayer.

**IV. Welcome and Introductions/Public Comments:**

Chair Vernon Lujan asked Patrick Million (new Transportation Planner, NCNMEDD) to introduce himself. He introduced himself as the former Executive Director of a nonprofit in Taos. He has 20 years of experience working with nonprofits and is grateful for the opportunity to be here.

**V. Roll Call:**

Name	Entity	Voting Member or Alternate
Eric Ulibarri	Los Alamos County	Alternate
Christine Bustos	Rio Arriba County	Alternate
Jason Silva	Taos County	Alternate
Jacob LaFore	Village of Questa	Alternate
Patrick Nicholson	Village of Taos Ski Valley	Voting Member
French Espinoza	Town of Taos	Voting Member
Jacob LaFore	Village of Questa	Voting Member
Sylvia Armijo	Picuris Pueblo	Voting Member
Raymond Martinez	Pueblo of San Ildefonso	Voting Member
Lucia Sanchez	Ohkay Owingeh	Alternate
Patrick Nicholson	Village of Taos Ski Valley	Voting Member



Suzette Shije, Vice Chair	Pueblo of Santa Clara	Voting Member
Bryce Gibson	NCRTD	Alternate

Patrick Million confirmed that there was a quorum for the meeting.

**VI. Approval of the Agenda:**

Chair Lujan asked Vice-Chair Shije if all the changes were made to her satisfaction. She replied that she had not reviewed the new draft of the minutes. Vice-Chair Shije made a motion to approve the agenda. Luis Sanchez of Ohkey Owingeh seconded. The motion passed with all present approving the minutes by roll call.

**VII. Approval of the Minutes: February 7, Regular Meeting**

Chair Lujan moved on to approving the minutes. Patrick Nicholson of Taos Ski Valley made a motion to approve the minutes. It was seconded by Chrstine Bustos of Rio Arriba County. Roll call resulted in all entities present approving the minutes.

**VIII. Federal Agency Updates**

There were no federal updates. Chair Lujan said thank you to the RTPO for support and letters of support for the Taos Pueblo and NCRTD and everyone who applied for the RAISE grant. Patrick Nicholson of VTSV said they applied as well.

**IX. State Agency Updates**

Vice Chair Shije asked that before we move on, we consider comments from the public. Chair Lujan gave a moment in which no members of the public appeared. He then said that this begs the question if we send this information out to various organizations in the state. Do municipalities post fliers from Patrick’s (NCNMEDD) office so people will know that we are meeting. Felicity Fonseca said NCNMEDD would be open to constructive criticism and



that at present NCNMEDD posts notices on the NPRTPO website and asked if there was a requirement beyond that.

Patrick Nicholson said he believed it was voluntary that organizations post.

Sylvia Armijo of the Picuris Pueblo commented that in the past, along with the minutes and the agenda, they would receive an invite.

Chair Lujan asked Patrick Million if he could make sure that happens from now on. Million answered affirmatively. Felicity Fonseca wanted clarification if this was a calendar invite and Chair Lujan clarified that it was a flier that was sent.

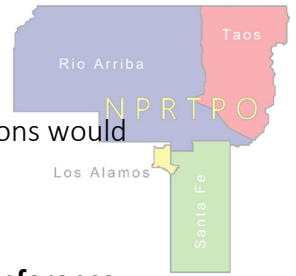
Vice Chair Shije reminded everyone that it was a ten-day requirement for posting the notice and agenda.

Patrick Million clarified that it was up to NCNMEDD to send the public notice and it would be up to entities to invite their constituents. Chair Lujan confirmed this.

Angelica Trujillo of NMDOT gave Government to Government/State updates.

- Angelica reminded everyone that quality assurance reviews are coming up. The planning liaison will reach out in the next few weeks to schedule times. The ADA and title VI compliance tracking has just been updated. If you do not have this, ask Angelica.
- The Route 66 Centennial Commission is putting out a call for submissions for projects celebrating the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Route 66. There is a press release for national and satellite events and programs.
- NOFOs: The Safe Streets and Roads 4 All funding opportunity is a National and regional program to prevent deaths on roadways. There are multiple deadlines: **4/2/24**, **5/16/24** and **8/29/24**. [The NM True Destination grant program](#), which is the development and implementation of tourism development projects, opens March 12 and the final deadline is April 10. Chirstine Bustos commented that there is a webinar on 3/7/24 for this grant.
- Angelica gave a general reminder that anyone touching a project should be T/LPA certified. You can contact the construction/civil rights bureau and Danny Sandoval is **the** contact.
- NMDOT is hiring a Government 2 Government Team Supervisor and a Hwy Safety Improvement Coordinator.
- On SAM.GOV there is an active call to design CMAQ and CRP projects for NMDOT. If you have queries including those about eligibility, please contact Angelica.

Chair Lujan asked Ms. Trujillo if the job announcements were on the website. She answered affirmatively that they were on the state personnel website and in Shannon



Glendenning's Government 2 Government email. Trujillo said two of those positions would be in Santa Fe and one would be in Albuquerque.

**X. Presentation: GIS Addressing and Conference, NextGen 911 APCO/NENA Conference in Santa Fe April 2<sup>nd</sup>.** (Tyler Fossett, 911 Coordinator DFA, Neusa McWilliams, GIS Planner, NCNMEDD)

- Tyler Fossett introduced himself as the 911 Coordinator for DFA and a large part of his role is assisting local governments in linking GIS and 911. They are in the middle of a large transition to NextGen 911. This transition will take 5 years and the new system is entirely dependent on GIS data. It is going to become mandatory that this information exists. If localities cannot supply this information, they may not be able to adopt the new system. The accuracy with which 911 calls get routed is going to be greatly improved. Part of the effort for this transition will be a conference in early April that features 3 days of training. The DFA will pay registration fees. Reach out to Tyler Fossett for more information. ([nmapconema.org/conference-registration](http://nmapconema.org/conference-registration)). Fossett said there is a more comprehensive list of resources in place. There are multiple consulting agencies on contract. Tyler can create a scope of work and bring in consultants for entities. There is also an online GIS resource that has been created which empowers entities to use GIS. Fossett can give the license to anyone for free. Chair Lujan thanked Fossett for the presentation and stated that issues on tribal lands and pueblos is that residential areas are so dispersed that some areas do not have addressing which makes it difficult to locate fires and emergencies. Tyler Fossett contact: [tyler.fossett@dfa.nm.gov](mailto:tyler.fossett@dfa.nm.gov)
- Neusa McWilliams introduced herself as the GIS rep for NCNMEDD. She is here to support everyone. She announced that there is an annual tribal GIS conference at the end of April and first of May in Albuquerque. The Bureau of Indian Affairs offers free GIS to registered indigenous groups with free access to GIS. If you are interested in getting a GIS license, go to: [bia.gov/service/geospatial-software/obtain-software](http://bia.gov/service/geospatial-software/obtain-software). ERSI is also an organization that has offerings for Native American tribal governments: [ersi.com/en-us/industries/tribal/overview](http://ersi.com/en-us/industries/tribal/overview). Eric Ulibarri, Los Alamos, asked how the information is getting disseminated to the tribes. Fossett commented that he has at least one contact for each government.

Chair Lujan suggested that Patrick Million send the link for GIS to tribal members. Felicity asked about the proper protocol for outreach to tribal entities. Chair Lujan said that members that are listed in the roll call are designated to receive information by their tribal government in matters of transportation.

Neusa added that GIS is a growing field in which youth can get into. Chair Lujan agreed.



## XI. Calendar for State Transportation Project Fund. (NPRTPO Staff)

Patrick Million reminded members that deadlines are coming up. The main one is **March 18** to hand in PFFs for TPF projects.

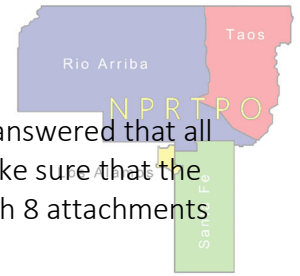
Million brought separate rating and ranking criteria. One of which was NPRTPO and the other was info he obtained from NMDOT which included a bridge category. Angelica Trujillo expressed minimal knowledge of the bridge clause and Million said he called the number and sent a query via email and he would update everyone on this as soon as he knew about it. He assured everyone they should not be discouraged if bridges were not part of their TPF. Million stated that they were already getting submissions.

Felicity Fonseca shared a screen as well of the breakdown of dates and deadlines. She wanted to give a quick overview of the TPF process. If you are interested in TPF funding, fill out the PFF (Project feasibility Form). Send this form to Patrick Million, the Transportation Planner. He will review the form. He will give it a first review, making sure math is correct and look for glaring errors. He will forward the form to NMDOT. NMDOT will give official feedback.

Felicity Fonseca deferred to Angelica Trujillo (NMDOT) for further comments on the process. Angelica said she could speak to her specific programs. Once you submit that documentation to the RTPOs, they have criteria to submit to various programs within NMDOT. Depending upon where the projects fall within the other applications coming in, they send that information back out to the entities in the form of letters of regret or letters stating they want to move forward with the project. If the information they put forth aligns with the fact that they are ready and capable of moving forward, that's when the information goes back and forth between the entities and NMDOT.

She said the TLPA handbook goes hand in hand with the program guides and it has a lot of really good information about the ins and outs. Felicity commented that the process allowed for a "first draft" which has a due date of **March 18**. After commenting, you will have to do a resolution which will have to go through your governing body. Then the final, final deadline for everything to be submitted is **May 31**.

Christine Bustos of Rio Arriba County commented that she filled out applications for a small bridge project. It was a questionnaire about the feasibility and maps and she never heard anything back. She asked if she should resubmit. Felicity asked who she submitted it to. Bustos said she didn't remember. Patrick Nicholson asked if it was MAP funding. She said she wasn't sure what it was and it was something that came up for a grant. Felicity offered to search Paul's email for the submission.



Elijah Mares of Española asked where they can find the forms to fill out. Felicity answered that all these materials and the call for projects are on [RTPONM.org](https://RTPONM.org). Patrick will also make sure that the forms will get to NPRTPO members. Jason Silva added that an email was sent with 8 attachments with all the forms needed.

## **XII. Discussion: Finalize Rating and Ranking Criteria for RTP and TPF**

Felicity Fonseca (NCNMEDD) explained that there is a discrepancy between the NPRTPO rating sheet and the NMDOT criteria and suggested that may be a break down in why projects might not be getting funded. Million shared a screen of the NPRTPO ranking criteria. Felicity explained that the NMDOT has criteria similar to the NPRTPO. Million suggested that the criteria he was sharing was broader strokes than the NPRTPO.

Chair Lujan referred to Ulibarri of Los Alamos and his discrepancy with the forms. Million had trouble pulling up the other screen to share with the NPRTPO criteria. Ulibarri clarified that the NMDOT and NPRTPO criteria should be made more similar. Felicity explained that we NCNMEDD obtained the criteria from the call for projects. Million got the NPRTPO criteria up on the screen. This was the scoring criteria used internally within the Northern Pueblo's group.

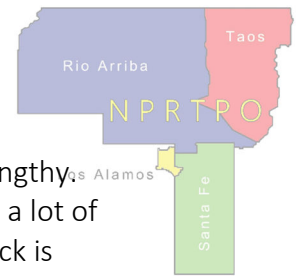
Patrick Nicholson pointed out that in years prior there were points for attendance.

Felicity Fonseca asked Angelica if this should be an internal conversation to understand the difference between the NPRTPO and the NMDOT criteria. Angelica said she would get with Shannon to discern why criteria is different. Million said he was looking at the SERTPO to get a feel for rating and ranking statewide and it would be good if we standardized things. Angelica said that yes, that was an issue that we [NMDOT] have had. Some districts do have their own little tweaks.

Anna Brunson (NCRTD) asked what we should take away from the meeting and Felicity suggested that you should score to the DOTs criteria. They are the funding agency. Some of the other criteria can maybe help evaluate. Jason Silva commented that, essentially, we are making the decision on how we are going forward, but the sentiment is that they should pursue DOT. He asked why even have rating and ranking when the decision has been premade.

Patrick Nicholson said if we have \$7M, let's decide among ourselves how best to spend it instead of going through these exercises and then it goes to Santa Fe and they reevaluate it for a different outcome. If we are going to have an RTPO, we should be able to distribute and allocate the funding.

Felicity said that sometimes your first time around is a learning experience. She wanted to pitch that the next time you do better after feedback from funders and feedback from peers. She urged members to not give up on the process.



French Espinoza (Town of Taos) said that the process is very cumbersome and lengthy. During the process, the governments change. The ICIP priorities change. There is a lot of time and money and effort invested into the process. He understands what Patrick is getting at.

Felicity explained that the State has a big emphasis on planning as the first standalone step. She encouraged the members to separate out planning as the first step and not try and combine planning with other phases of the project. Jason Silva said that his project's planning was submitted in 2019. He doesn't think he will be funded based on the current mechanism. He suggested again having Secretary Serna as part of the discussion. Chair Lujan seconded that is a good idea that the secretary attend a meeting and that we need to have the proper criteria form.

Eric Ulibarri said it might be difficult to get the secretary to a meeting, but we could at least get the grant coordinator to a meeting. Clarissa Martinez would be a good resource. Angelica said she would touch base with Clarissa.

### **XIII. Presentation/Discussion Recreational Trails Program Rating and Ranking**

Felicity Fonseca asked if Jacob LaFore (Questa) was on the call. He confirmed and Felicity asked if they were planning on presenting their RTP project. Jake said they hadn't prepared anything for the meeting. Million referred to the matrix that he shared with the meeting. Felicity interjected that the only relevant deadline for the meeting and RTP projects was March 29th. There is only one submitter for this which is Questa.

Angelica stated that our cycles of funding are a little out of whack and they are trying to get into a cycle where they are all put out at the same time. Jake stated that Chevron contracted with Arcadis and they have a grant writer working on this trails project. The ball is in his court and they haven't gotten a draft from him yet. That is why they have nothing to present today.

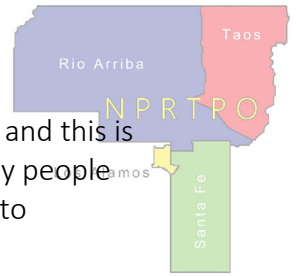
Anna asked if the deadline will be similar next year. Felicity and Angelica suggested that some of these grants are every two years.

### **XIV. NPRTPO Planner/Program Manager Updates and Announcements: Tribal GIS Conference, Safe Streets and Roads for All grant**

Million said that NMDOT already mentioned the Safe Street and Roads 4 All grant and in the interest of time, he asked that anyone interested please reach out to NCNMEDD.

Felicity Fonseca shared strategy for the SSR4A. One of the conditions was that entities have a transportation safety plan in place. Felicity asked if there was an interest in transportation safety planning. Elijah from Espanola commented that Espanola sits within





two governments and two pueblos. Several arterial roads connect within the city and this is something that is worth looking at. Espanola is a small town, but it serves so many people passing through it. He said they do not have a single ADA sidewalk that connects to anywhere. Lighting is an issue as well.

Felicity confirmed that the city of Española would like to do transportation safety planning.

Jason Silva said that Taos County is interested in safety planning as well. Chair Lujan stated that Taos Pueblo just completed their safety plan. It's been three years in the making and has been very helpful. It is facilitating the road improvement projects underway as well. The safety plan is becoming grant criteria for other grants such as and land use planning projects. Adam Larsen with FHWA is a valuable contact on this topic. They provide funding for these plans.

### XV. New Business

Christine Bustos confirmed that the next meeting will be hosted in **Rio Arriba County April 3, 2024.**

Felicity Fonseca noted that there was a guest in the meeting. The guest declined to comment. Jason Silva noted that there is usually an item on the agenda for public comment.

Felicity said around 12 people would fit at the north central offices and suggested NCNMEDD would host in June. Bryce confirmed **NCRTD would host May 1.**

### XVI. Adjourn

Christine Bustos, Rio Arriba, moved to adjourn, motion was seconded by French Espinoza, Town of Taos. The meeting was adjourned at 12:10pm.