



Meeting Minutes

Northern Pueblos Regional Transportation Planning Organization (NPRTPO)
Special meeting hosted on December 8, 2021 (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	Absent
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	Absent
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	Present
Maggie Valdez	Village of Chama	Voting Member	Absent
Will Donohoe	Village of Chama	Alternate	Absent
Renee Martinez	Village of Questa	Voting Member	Present
	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	Absent
Christy Ladd	Ohkay Owingeh	Voting Member	Absent
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	Present
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	Absent
Bryce Gibson	NCRTD	Alternate	Present



NCNMEDD/NPRTPO Staff

Christopher Madrid	NCNMEDD Community Development Director
Paul Sittig	NCNMEDD Transportation Planner
Kyla Danforth	NCNMEDD Transportation Intern
Felicity Fonseca	NCNMEDD Disaster Recovery Coordinator
Eric Renz-Whitmore	NCNMEDD Disaster Recovery Coordinator

NMDOT Staff

James Mexia	NMDOT Technical Support Engineer
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Guests

Isaac Cisneros	Town of Red River
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I. Call Meeting to Order

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

II. Pledge of Allegiance

Chairwoman O'Donnell called on Renee Martinez, Village of Questa, to lead the pledge of allegiance.

III. Opening Prayer

Chairwoman O'Donnell asked if Vice Chair Vernon Lujan was on the meeting yet, and Paul Sittig, NCNMEDD noted he was not. Marcus Lopez, Pueblo of Nambé, offered to provide the opening prayer, and did so.

IV. Welcome and Introductions/Public Comments:

Chairwoman O'Donnell asked Paul Sittig, NCNMEDD, if guests could introduce themselves. Felicity Fonseca, NCNMEDD Disaster Recovery Coordinator, introduced herself and noted that she works with Christopher Madrid, NCNMEDD Community Development Director. Ms. Fonseca noted that this department is the conduit for economic development funding in this region, and there are a number of open opportunities through EDA, including Travel, Tourism, and Outdoor Recreation, an Indigenous Communities grant opportunity, and the Good Jobs Challenge, in addition to the typical EDA funding, Public Works and Economic Adjustment Assistance. Ms. Fonseca offered to share more information with members after the meeting. She also noted that NCNMEDD provides technical assistance with federal, state, and local grant applications, as well as small business consulting, and NCNMEDD operates a revolving loan fund. Ms. Fonseca noted that one of Christopher Madrid's main activities is assisting local and tribal public entities with capital outlay. She closed with a note that this information is available through the monthly NCNMEDD newsletter, and you can be added to the NCNMEDD email list by contacting Ms. Fonseca at felicityf@ncnmedd.com. Chairwoman O'Donnell thanked Ms. Fonseca, especially for the Capital Outlay Training and Legislative Preview (*now on YouTube: www.youtube.com/watch?v=w2wqT3diPjs*).



Chairwoman O’Donnell asked if there were any comments from the public, and there were none.

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
Chairwoman Candyce O’Donnell	Taos County	Voting Member
Muhammad Hussain	City of Española	Voting Member
Linda Calhoun	Town of Red River	Voting Member
Renee Martinez	Village of Questa	Voting Member
Marcus Lopez	Pueblo of Nambé	Voting Member
Sylvia Armijo	Picuris Pueblo	Voting Member
Sybil Cota	Ohkay Owingeh	Alternate
Suzette Shije	Pueblo of Santa Clara	Voting Member
Vice Chair Vernon Lujan	Pueblo of Taos	Voting Member
Bryce Gibson	NCRTD	Alternate

Mr. Sittig confirmed that there is a quorum for the meeting.

VI. Approval of the Agenda:

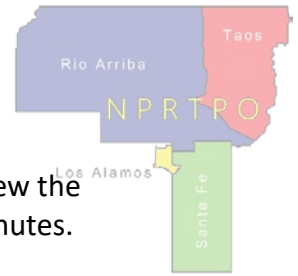
Chairwoman O’Donnell, Taos County, asked for a motion to approve the agenda.

Motion to approve the agenda as amended was made by Mayor Linda Calhoun, Town of Red River. Second by Muhammad Hussain, City of Española.

Roll Call Vote:

Name	Entity	Vote
Keith Wilson	Los Alamos County	Yes
Chairwoman Candyce O’Donnell	Taos County	Yes
Muhammad Hussain	City of Española	Yes
Linda Calhoun	Town of Red River	Yes
Renee Martinez	Village of Questa	Yes
Marcus Lopez	Pueblo of Nambé	Yes
Sylvia Armijo	Picuris Pueblo	Yes
Suzette Shije	Pueblo of Santa Clara	Yes
Vernon Lujan	Pueblo of Taos	Yes
Bryce Gibson	NCRTD	Yes

Ohkay Owingeh did not respond; otherwise, the motion passed unanimously with members present.



VII. Approval of the Minutes: November 3, 2021, Regular Meeting online

Chairwoman O’Donnell, Taos County, asked everyone to take a moment to review the meeting minutes. Chairwoman O’Donnell asked for a motion to approve the minutes.

Motion was made by Keith Wilson, Los Alamos County. Second by Chairwoman O’Donnell, Taos County.

Roll Call Vote:

Name	Entity	Vote
Keith Wilson	Los Alamos County	Yes
Gary Brett Clavio	Santa Fe County	Yes
Chairwoman Candyce O’Donnell	Taos County	Yes
Muhammad Hussain	City of Española	Yes
Linda Calhoun	Town of Red River	Yes
Renee Martinez	Village of Questa	Yes
Marcus Lopez	Pueblo of Nambé	Yes
Sylvia Armijo	Picuris Pueblo	Yes
Suzette Shije	Pueblo of Santa Clara	Yes
Vernon Lujan	Pueblo of Taos	Yes
Bryce Gibson	NCRTD	Yes

Gary Brett Clavio joined the meeting before this roll call vote. Ohkay Owingeh did not respond; otherwise, the motion passed unanimously with members present.

VIII Action/Approval: FTA Transit Agency Funding Rating and Ranking (NMDOT/RTPO)

Chairwoman O’Donnell asked who would be presenting this item. Paul Sittig, NCNMEDD, stated he would provide a summary of the prior meeting, where there were six FTA applications, four for Section 5311 and two for Section 5310.

11-ACT: R	11-ACT: R	11-ACT: L	MT: Rural	MT: Regio	MT: Level	NCRTD: R	NCRTD: R	NCRTD: L	PM: Rural	PM: Regio	PM: Level	10-ACT: P	10-ACT: R	10-ACT: M	SFRC: Plar	SFRC: Reg	SFRC: Mai
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55	53	54	52	52	49	56	56	55	53	52	53	55	56	55	52	55	52
4.58	4.42	4.50	4.33	4.33	4.08	4.67	4.67	4.58	4.42	4.33	4.42	4.58	4.67	4.58	4.33	4.58	4.33
		13.50			12.75			13.92			13.17			13.83			13.25
		High			High			High			High			High			High



In short, the criteria for Section 5311 are:

1. Rural Planning, Regional Coordination
2. Regional Need and System Justification
3. Level of Marketing, Public Served

Score range	
Low	1-3
Medium-low	3.01-6
Medium	6.01-9
Medium-high	9.01-12
High	12.01-15

Out of a possible 15 points, the applications are ranked with the following scores:

1. North Central Regional Transit District – 13.92 points
2. Atomic City Transit, Los Alamos County – 13.50 points
3. PoPay Messenger, Ohkay Owingeh – 13.17 points
4. Miners Transit, Town of Red River – 12.75 points

The criteria for Section 5310 are:

1. Planning and Coordination
2. Regional Need and Justification
3. Maintenance, Safety, and ADA

Out of a possible 15 points, the applications are ranked with the following scores:

1. Atomic City Transit, Los Alamos County – 13.83 points
2. Santa Fe Recovery Center – 13.25 points

Mr. Sittig presented the final scores for final consideration and approval by the NPRTPO Board. Vice Chair Lujan, asked about the colors Mr. Sittig presented. Mr. Sittig stated that this was to visually differentiate the different applications, not to indicate ranking. Chairwoman O’Donnell asked that the application ranking be clearly identified in advance, and Mr. Sittig confirmed he would do so. Mr. Sittig noted that while this is a competitive application, he believed that there is sufficient funding for all transit applications statewide, unlike the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) and other competitive federal funding sources. Chairwoman O’Donnell asked Mr. Sittig to confirm this with NMDOT, and he said he would. *(See table below with relevant information)*

ESTIMATED FEDERAL TRANSIT GRANT BALANCES FY 2022				
Grant Type	Requests for Federal Funds	Availability of Federal Funds	Federal Funds Recommended	Balance of Federal Funds
Section 5310 - Total Federal	\$2,017,621.94	\$3,597,154.00	\$1,883,691.72	\$1,713,462.28
-Section 5310 - Rural	\$423,496.70	\$1,481,142.00	\$339,370.88	\$1,141,771.12
-Section 5310 - Albuquerque	\$412,393.04	\$453,339.00	\$373,153.34	\$80,185.66
-Section 5310 - Small Urban	\$1,181,732.20	\$1,662,673.00	\$1,171,167.50	\$491,505.50
Sections 5311 and 5339 - Total Federal	\$18,898,180.05	\$36,504,681.00	\$18,166,369.72	\$18,338,311.28
-Section 5311 Administration/Operating	\$14,728,064.48	\$25,391,541.00	\$8,481,164.32	\$16,910,376.68
-Section 5311 Cares & ARP - Operating	\$0.00	\$7,253,981.00	\$8,160,532.75	(\$906,551.75)
-Section 5339 Capital	\$4,170,115.57	\$3,859,159.00	\$1,524,672.65	\$2,334,486.35
TOTAL	\$20,915,801.99	\$40,101,835.00	\$20,050,061.44	\$20,051,773.56



*(The table above is copied from the **FY 2022 Statewide Transit Application/ RPO Prioritization and Budget Award Recommendation Meeting for Sections 5310 and 5311**, held on Monday June 7, 2021, and Tuesday June 8, 2021, posted in full on the [NMDOT Transit Bureau website](#).)*

Motion was made by Vernon Lujan, Pueblo of Taos. Second by Mayor Linda Calhoun, Town of Red River.

Roll Call Vote:

Name	Entity	Vote
Keith Wilson	Los Alamos County	Yes
Gary Brett Clavio	Santa Fe County	Yes
Chairwoman Candyce O'Donnell	Taos County	Yes
Muhammad Hussain	City of Española	Yes
Linda Calhoun	Town of Red River	Yes
Renee Martinez	Village of Questa	Yes
Marcus Lopez	Pueblo of Nambé	Yes
Sylvia Armijo	Picuris Pueblo	Yes
Suzette Shije	Pueblo of Santa Clara	Yes
Vernon Lujan	Pueblo of Taos	Yes
Bryce Gibson	NCRTD	Yes

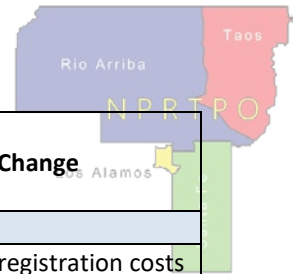
Ohkay Owingeh did not respond; otherwise, the motion passed unanimously with members present.

IX. Action/Approval: NCNMEDD NPRTPO FFY 2021 Budget Amendment (RTPO Staff)

Chairwoman O'Donnell introduced the North Central New Mexico Economic Development District's Federal Fiscal Year 2022 Northern Pueblos RTPO Budget Amendment request, and asked Christopher Madrid, NCNMEDD, to present the item and thanked him for the work he does for the communities. Mr. Madrid provided a brief overview of the requested amendment, and asked Paul Sittig to elaborate. Chairwoman O'Donnell asked Mr. Sittig to pull up the page with the proposed budget amendment.

Mr. Sittig noted that this is the second Regional Work Program in as many quarters, stating that the prior amendment was to rebalance some duties with the current staffing, which has been approved by NMDOT and the New Mexico division office of the Federal Highways Administration.

This budget amendment is to carry forward funds that were not expended in the first year to this, the second year of the two-year Work Program. The amendment would increase funding in four categories:



Staff Hours or Budget Line Items being changed	Current Budgeted Amount	Revised Amount	Percent Change	Brief Description of Change
Proposed line-item budget changes				
Travel	\$1,940.00	\$3,969.40	104.61%	Preparing for more travel and registration costs
Dues	\$240.00	\$260.00	8.33%	Adding NM Transit Association to annual dues
Professional Services	\$2,222.58	\$2,502.43	12.59%	Minor increase to allow additional IT support
Software	\$673.10	\$248.10	40.86%	Increase to support Esri ArcGIS license
Total	\$106,250.00	\$108,854.25	2.45%	

The total increase is \$2,604.25 from the original budget. Chairwoman O’Donnell asked if the increased the travel costs would be for Mr. Sittig, and he noted that this increase is with the option for himself and other NCNMEDD staff to travel instate and out of state to meetings and conferences in support of transportation planning efforts, when travel restrictions are lessened.

Chairwoman O’Donnell asked if there were any more questions, and there were none. She asked for a motion to approve the budget amendment. The motion was made by Keith Wilson, Los Alamos County. Second by Renee Martinez, Village of Questa.

Roll Call Vote:

Name	Entity	Vote
Keith Wilson	Los Alamos County	Yes
Gary Brett Clavio	Santa Fe County	Yes
Chairwoman Candyce O’Donnell	Taos County	Yes
Muhammad Hussain	City of Española	Yes
Linda Calhoun	Town of Red River	Yes
Renee Martinez	Village of Questa	Yes
Marcus Lopez	Pueblo of Nambé	Yes
Sylvia Armijo	Picuris Pueblo	Yes
Sybil Cota	Ohkay Owingeh	Yes
Suzette Shije	Pueblo of Santa Clara	Yes
Vernon Lujan	Pueblo of Taos	Yes
Bryce Gibson	NCRTD	Yes

The motion passed unanimously.

X. Discussion: Regional Transportation Plan update and next steps (RTPO staff)

Paul Sittig presented on the status of the Regional Transportation Plan for the Northern Pueblos region. Mr. Sittig noted that he and Kyla were carrying forward where Lesah Sedillo and Steve Fisher left off, updating Census and crash data, and writing sections that were not yet included:

- Transportation System Overview (general summary)
- Challenges and Opportunities (informed by previous survey responses)
- Plan implementation (how does this plan work and look, how it useful?)



Mr. Sittig posed a few questions to the members:

- What are your favorite parts of the 2040 Plan from 2014?
 - Are the priority tiers helpful? (Developed previously by NMDOT)
- How would you like to use this plan?
 - Will it support local or regional funding applications, and/or
 - Will it provide regional data to support local project identification?
- What does a successful regional plan look like?
 - Should we measure success?
 - If so, how do we measure success?

Chairwoman O'Donnell asked about the tiers, and whether the plan should focus on roadways where people have died. Mr. Sittig noted that the tiers didn't focus on safety previously, but rather the following categories:

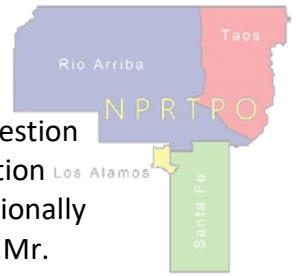
- Roads, by size of cities served and the volume of traffic on roads
- Freight, both rail and road, by corridor volume
- Transit, both bus and passenger rail, by frequency of trips
- Pedestrian, by population and use
- Bicycle, by volume or demand
- Aviation, by volume or demand

Mr. Sittig noted that the Northern Pueblos region benefits from North Central Regional Transit District (NCRTD), which serves the entirety of the NPRTPO region, so the Northern Pueblos RTP could reference or potentially incorporate NCRTD maps.

Brett Clavio, Santa Fe County, asked whether the prior RTP was driven by tiers or goals, or both. Mr. Sittig noted that the tiers were not referenced or used in NMDOT's 2045 plan (beyond reference to the Transit Asset Management use of tiers), but in the 2040 plan for NMDOT and NPRTPO, the tiers existed along with goals.

Chairwoman O'Donnell reiterated the value in focusing on crash records and roadway safety, but on the county and tribal roads as well as the NMDOT facilities, and also addressing bicycle and pedestrian crashes. She also said this effort may benefit from a separate committee meeting, and that there would be value of unfunded priority projects being listed in the NP RPT.

Vice Chair Lujan asked how the proposed congressional redistricting would impact this plan. He noted that Representative Leger Fernandez asked for priority projects in the Spring of 2021, and Taos Pueblo submitted the Rio Lucero project, which received state Transportation Project Fund funding through NMDOT, but he had not heard back about that funding opportunity from Representative Leger Fernandez's office. Vice Chair Lujan also noted that NMDOT is not opening funding for Highway Safety Improvement Program projects, but that didn't appear in the draft plan to date. He also noted that Taos Pueblo is concerned about the safety of the intersection of NM-150 and a Pueblo Tribal Transportation Program inventory roads, and the Taos Gorge Bridge.

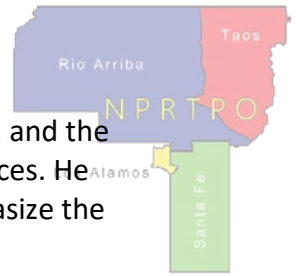


Christopher Madrid, NCNMEDD, asked if he could speak to Vice Chair Lujan’s question about federally directed spending. Mr. Madrid noted that the Vice Chair’s question about Rep. Leger Fernandez’s priority project request sounded like the congressionally directed spending program that was initiated to bring back a form of earmarks. Mr. Madrid noted that he had reached out to the Senator’s office, and it sounds like none of the submitted priority projects had received funding. He noted that with the continuing resolutions in Congress have put a number of things on hold. Mr. Madrid said we’re waiting for federal guidance on the disbursement of federal funding, and while the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) has provided some [initial summaries of funding breakdowns](#) and [program updates](#), detailed guidance is still forthcoming. Mr. Sittig noted that there is a link to [FHWA’s new Bipartisan Infrastructure Law website](#) on the [RTPO NM home page](#).

Chairwoman O’Donnell stated that the NP RTP should include information on the American Recovery Plan (ARP) funding, and other potential funding, to stress the need to support this region as a rural, underserved area throughout the plan. The Chairwoman asked Mr. Madrid if there was a timeline for the continuing resolution to be passed, which might free up direct funding. Mr. Madrid noted that the congressionally directed funds may not be proceeding, we are waiting on the guidance for the new transportation funding, which will open up significant funding opportunities, including for rural areas. Chairwoman O’Donnell asked Mr. Sittig to stress the value and importance of supporting the region with federal funding.

Keith Wilson, Los Alamos County, asked whether the Regional Transportation Plan was a federal mandate. Mr. Sittig noted they are not. Mr. Wilson noted that federal funds come with all the requirements and need to address performance measures, and he suggested that the RPTO adopt the State plan’s performance measures to align with state efforts to meet their mandatory goals, which would help advocate for projects in this region.

Chairwoman O’Donnell noted that is difficult to measure success, which could be discussed in a subcommittee meeting, and she asked when this plan is due. Mr. Sittig noted that because this is not a mandated plan, Northern Pueblos RTPO has more flexibility in completing this plan. Chairwoman O’Donnell asked that there be more information on funding opportunities, and that the RPTO potentially develop regional applications. The RTPO members would need to decide who writes the application, who manages the project. The Chairwoman noted that in the Capital Outlay Training and Legislative Preview, it was mentioned that COGs and EDDs could receive funding for additional staff, and she asked if Mr. Sittig would be the one to write the application. Mr. Sittig said this would likely depend on the application scope and deadline. Chairwoman O’Donnell said we could have a work study or subcommittee meeting in January 2022 or when we receive more information from Congress or direction from federal agencies, or if the state receives additional federal funding and increases the amount of state funding in the Transportation Project Fund budget.



Vice Chair Lujan thanked Mr. Madrid for clarifying the different funding sources, and the Vice Chair reminded the board that it is good to apply for different funding sources. He said it would be good for Northern Pueblos to put something together to emphasize the regional needs, priorities, and projects that are in need of funding.

XI. NMDOT Updates

Paul Sittig, NCNMEDD, noted that while James Mexia, NMDOT Technical Support Engineer, appeared to be on the call earlier, but was not on at this moment, and that there didn't appear to be any other representatives from NMDOT.

XII. Member Input on Training and Presentations for NPRTPO

Chairwoman O'Donnell reiterated that it would be good to have someone from the congressional delegation on federal legislation, maybe someone from the state in January.

XIII. NPRTPO Planner/Program Manager Updates and Announcements

Paul Sittig introduced Eric Renz-Whitmore, NCNMEDD Disaster Recovery Coordinator, who also works with Christopher Madrid at NCNMEDD, working with local businesses and the communities that support them throughout the region. He also works on the strategic REDI Plan (Northern New Mexico Regional Economic Development Initiative), with the counties of Los Alamos, Santa Fe, Rio Arriba, and Taos, and the communities and tribes within. Christopher Madrid noted that outreach would come in different forms, in groups and one-on-one, online and maybe in person at some point. Chairwoman O'Donnell suggested surveys of tribal, municipal, and county governments would also be helpful in gathering main concerns easily.

XIV. New Business

A. Upcoming meeting topics

January – RTPO 101 overview from NCNMEDD staff, LGRF and Traffic presentations from NMDOT; NCNMEDD to provide legislative updates
February – revisit meeting topics, consider whether to present a review of Capital Outlay funding at this meeting or some other presentation

B. Upcoming meeting dates and locations

January 12, 2022 – online
February 2, 2022 – to be determined in January

Chairwoman O'Donnell asked if anyone had additional questions or comments, and there were none. She presented one request for NMDOT, to identify who manages and maintains the historic wooden information signs. The Chairwoman noted that there



used to be historic sign application and wanted to know if there's a different process to put up a new sign or replace an old sign. Mr. Sittig said he would look into this and follow up with members.

XV. Adjourn

Chairwoman O'Donnell, Taos County, adjourned the meeting at 11:13 AM, and wished everyone happy holidays.