

Southeast Regional Transportation Planning Organization (SERTPO)

Minutes of the Joint Policy & Technical Committee Meeting

March 31, 2022 – 10:00 am

Hybrid Meeting (Virtual/In Person)

POLICY MEMBERS PRESENT:

Policy Member (or Alternate) listed in Alphabetical Order

| | |
|---------------------|------------------------|
| Ball, Crystal | City of Lovington |
| Brito, Candy | City of Eunice |
| Bunch, Clint | City of Clovis |
| DeSha, John | City of Portales |
| Garcia, Roman | Town of Vaughn |
| Hall, Jubal | Village of Cloudcroft |
| Jones, Walon | Curry County |
| Kennedy, Kevin | Village of Capitan |
| Little, Christopher | Mescalero Apache Tribe |
| Lovato, Ricky | Roosevelt County |
| Lucero, Amanda | De Baca County |
| McCroskey, Steve | Eddy County |
| Najar, Louis | City of Roswell |
| Osborne, Deborah | City of Alamogordo |
| Randall, Todd | City of Hobbs |
| Reid, Bruce | Lea County |
| Patterson, Jeff | City of Carlsbad |
| Sena, Ron | Village of Ruidoso |
| West, Joe | Chaves County |
| Willard, Lynn | Lincoln County |

POLICY COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

| | |
|-------------------------|------------------------|
| Bradley, Jerry (Mayor) | City of Texico |
| Burkett, Mickey (Mayor) | Village of Dora |
| Dean, Ray (Mayor) | Town of Carrizozo |
| Estrada, Pete (Mayor) | Village of Loving |
| Gallegos, Louie (Mayor) | Village of Fort Sumner |
| Green, Barry (Mayor) | Village of Melrose |
| Gutierrez, Amy (Mayor) | Town of Tatum |
| Jarvis, Joey | City of Ruidoso Downs |
| King, Kris (Mayor) | Village of Causey |
| Lovas, Mark | Town of Hagerman |
| Myrick, Van | City of Jal |
| Porter, Tom | Otero County |
| Powell, Justin | Town of Dexter |
| Powell, Leona | Village of Grady |
| Sainz, Robert (Trustee) | Village of Tularosa |
| Salazar, Ysidro (Mayor) | Town of Lake Arthur |
| Sales, Rudy | Village of Hope |
| Seely, Sam (Mayor) | Village of Corona |
| Summers, Kim | Town of Elida |
| Valverde, Summer | City of Artesia |
| Whitecotton, Toni | Village of Floyd |

Southeast Regional Transportation Planning Organization (SERTPO)
Minutes of March 31, 2022 Meeting

TECHNICAL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Technical Member (or Alternate) listed in Alphabetical Order

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|---------------------|------------------------|
| Abell, Ivan | City of Carlsbad |
| Ball, Crystal | City of Lovington |
| Bunch, Clint | City of Clovis |
| Burns, Jason | Eddy County |
| DeSha, John | City of Portales |
| Garcia, Roman | Town of Vaughn |
| Gurule, Angelo | Chaves County |
| Hall, Jubal | Village of Cloudcroft |
| Honeycutt, Jeff | Lincoln County |
| Jones, Walon | Curry County |
| Kennedy, Kevin | Village of Capitan |
| Little, Christopher | Mescalero Apache Tribe |
| Lovato, Ricky | Roosevelt County |
| Lucero, Amanda | De Baca County |
| Osborne, Deborah | City of Alamogordo |
| Mendez, Samantha | Village of Ruidoso |
| Najar, Louis | City of Roswell |
| Randall, Todd | City of Hobbs |
| Reid, Bruce | Lea County |
| Ruvalcaba, Imelda | City of Eunice |

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

| | |
|-------------------------|------------------------|
| Bradley, Jerry (Mayor) | City of Texico |
| Burkett, Mickey (Mayor) | Village of Dora |
| Carbajal, Sonia | Village of Hope |
| Dean, Ray (Mayor) | Town of Carrizozo |
| Gallegos, Louie (Mayor) | Village of Fort Sumner |
| Garcia, Joe | Town of Tatum |
| Garza, Manuel | Village of Loving |
| Green, Barry (Mayor) | Village of Melrose |
| Jarvis, Joey | City of Ruidoso Downs |
| King, Kris (Mayor) | Village of Causey |
| Lovas, Mark | Town of Hagerman |
| Powell, Leona | Village of Grady |
| Myrick, Van | City of Jal |
| Porter, Tom | Otero County |
| Salazar, Ysidro (Mayor) | Town of Lake Arthur |
| Seely, Sam (Mayor) | Village of Corona |
| Summers, Kim | Town of Elida |
| Torres, Adolpho | Town of Dexter |
| Trujillo, Margaret | Village of Tularosa |
| Valverde, Summer | City of Artesia |
| Whitecotton, Toni | Village of Floyd |

COG/NMDOT STAFF PRESENT:

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|---------------|--|
| Arnett, Manon | NMDOT – Roswell |
| Briley, Alan | NMDOT - Roswell |
| Mary Ann Burr | Southeastern New Mexico Economic Development District (SNMEDD) |

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| Coslin, Libby | NMDOT – Roswell |
| Gallardo, Judith | NMDOT – Las Cruces |
| Krueger, Neala | NMDOT – Santa Fe |
| Matta, Louis | NMDOT – Roswell |
| Moriarty, Joseph | NMDOT – Santa Fe |
| Najera, Ben | NMDOT – Santa Fe |
| Neunuebel, John | NMDOT – Santa Fe |
| Rodriguez, Raul | Eastern Plains Council of Governments (EPCOG) |
| Ruiz, David | NMDOT – Santa Fe |
| Sanchez, Francisco | NMDOT D2 Engineer (Roswell) |
| Vigil, Jeff | NMDOT – Santa Fe |

GUESTS PRESENT:

| | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Avitia, Jesus | Souder, Miller & Associates (Roswell) |
| Barentine, Jim | CES (Albuquerque) |
| Contreras-Apodaca, Gabby | Stantec (Las Cruces) |
| Dominguez, Alvin | Bohannon Huston, Inc. (Albuquerque) |
| Fresquez, Ray | Stantec (Roswell) |
| Garcia, Yolanda | |
| Hamilton, Eric | Wilson & Company (Albuquerque) |
| Harper, Serena | FXSA Consulting (El Paso) |
| Palomino, Alex | Souder, Miller & Associates (Roswell) |
| Runyon, Richard | Dennis Engineering (Socorro/Edgewood) |
| Yutzy, Jordan | City of Eunice |

CALL TO ORDER / QUORUM (8)

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

INTRODUCTIONS

Technical Committee Chair Jason Burns presided over the hybrid meeting and called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m. Members and guests participated with the Pledge of Allegiance. Introductions were held. With twenty members present, a quorum was established.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Ron Sena made a motion to approve the agenda as presented. Motion was seconded by Louis Najera. With there being no objections, motion passed by unanimous vote.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Kevin Kennedy made a motion to approve the January 27, 2022 minutes as presented. Motion was seconded by Jeff Honeycutt. With no discussion or objections, motion passed unanimously.

PRESENTATION: BRIDGE FUNDING – BIPARTISAN INFRASTRUCTURE BILL

Jeff Vigil, Bridge Management Section Manager
Ben Najera, Engineer Manager
NMDOT Bridge Management Section

Jeff Vigil, Bridge Management Section Manager, explained that they wished to provide an overview of the Bridge Management Program and bridge inspections but also, primarily, to discuss the recently approved federal funding, Bridge Formula funds, which are part of the Bipartisan Transportation bill. Of the funding allocated to New Mexico, approximately seven million will go to local governments, at a minimum. Bridge

Management wishes to discuss their plan for spending this funding with the RTPOs and MPOs and receive input on bridges selected. Mr. Vigil explained they wish to select bridges that make a difference and that they have not had an opportunity to replace on work on in the past.

At this time, Ben Najera, Engineer Manager, provided an overview of presentation topics, which included the NMDOT Bridge Inspection Program; assessing bridge condition; prioritization using AASHTOWare BrM; funding in the current Transportation Asset Management Plan (TAMP); the plan for spending additional funds; the escalation in bridge costs; and southeast bridge conditions. The NMDOT is responsible for the inspection of all NMDOT-owned and local government owned bridges, which started in 1972. Local governments are responsible for the maintenance of their bridges; NMDOT inspects the bridges. The NMDOT District offices usually sends a letter or some correspondence regarding bridge condition, to include a bridge inspection report and any recommendations for the bridge(s). Mr. Najera explained that bridges greater than 20 ft. in length are considered bridges, which does include some culverts. A slide was presented for span bridges, and he commented that bridges are rated by the deck area. Diagrams for concrete box and pipe culverts were displayed, and he discussed types as well as their condition ratings.

Mr. Najera explained that their Department is implementing the AASHTOWare BrM program (software) for prioritization of projects. With screenshot(s) displayed, the Manager navigated the page, showing its organization and features, ability to filter bridges for the various MPO/RTPO areas, costs tied to recommended improvements for the bridges, and mapping for bridge locations. Current funding sources, before the new additional funds, in the TAMP are \$60 million annually (National Highway System (NHS), \$40 million and non-NHS Funding, \$20 million) -- all for state-owned bridges only. Bridge Preservation Program Funding is \$14 million, spread amongst NHS bridge preservation, Non-NHS bridge preservation and NMSU bridge inspections (where their staff inspect approximately a quarter of the bridges). Bridge preservation is for NMDOT bridges only.

Regarding the new funding, Mr. Vigil explained that the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law established the Bridge Formula Program, and Congress authorized \$27.5 billion of which \$26.5 billion goes to states and \$825 million goes to tribal transportation facilities. BIA-owned routes are eligible for the \$825 million. He believes New Mexico will receive approximately \$250 million. Bridge Management is anticipating an additional \$45 million annually for the next five years and there is a possibility of that amount reaching \$52 million. Mr. Najera discussed the planned funding that would be applied to the bridge preservation program and non-NHS bridges. There is a minimum of 15% that goes to local governments, which is \$6.75 million annually. If the total amount of new funding reaches \$52 million, the local government amount could be \$12 million. Any remaining funding will go to underfunded projects under development and other projects identified through the bridge priority list. Mr. Najera continued with discussion of bridge costs. He provided a detailed explanation of 2020 unit bid costs; replacement costs and other work treatments; and the use of factors. Total bridge costs per square foot (awarded bidder) were displayed, comparing TAMP estimates and awarded bidder amounts for 2019-2021. Considering the escalation in bridge costs, Mr. Najera displayed and discussed the 2021 unit bid cost; replacement cost, culvert replacement cost, major rehab cost; rehab cost; and maintenance cost.

For the southeast region, the inventory of bridges was presented, showing most in fair condition and six bridges in poor condition. The inventory has 130 non-state-owned bridges and a total of 537 bridges, which includes one tunnel. He explained there are thirteen bridges that are not in their inventory, which are inspected by another entity (i.e., Mescalero, National Forest Service), and their Department does not have the data as to bridge condition. Of the six bridges in poor condition (Chaves and Lincoln Counties), Mr. Najera commented on their statuses. For non-state-owned bridge conditions, graphs showed the percentages for bridges in good, fair and poor condition. The southeast RTPO is close to the numbers on the state side.

Mr. Najera explained that Bridge Management has met with all the Districts and received their top 10 list for local-owned bridges. The list of ten bridges for the southeast was displayed, showing the owner (local

government), work recommendation, estimated cost, year built, and additional information. The majority of the bridges are recommended for rehabilitation with one exception. Total costs are nearly \$10 million. Mr. Vigil explained they will be prioritizing three lists (NHS list, non-NHS list, and locally owned list) for each District. They plan to come back to the RTPOs and MPOs with the lists, so their prioritization may be reviewed and RTPOs/MPOs may provide input or comments. Final decisions will be made by upper management or higher level than Bridge Management Section.

Raul Rodriguez commented that NERTPO sent out a survey to all of their members for their input. They decided to accept NMDOT Bridge Division's prioritized list. Items considered included the need to go through another ranking and rating process which may not be beneficial with the TPF Call-for-Projects and federal Calls-for-Projects with the Bipartisan Infrastructure law. He suggested a similar survey for SERTPO. He added that the Bridge Management Section surveys the bridges, forms recommendations, has a process for estimating cost, and he recommended allowing Bridge Management work their prioritized list.

Clarification was requested on the 6 or 7 million annually that each District is going to receive. Mr. Vigil responded that over the five-year period, it is estimated a minimum of seven million annually, statewide; they have not received assurances that the funding is going to be distributed equally among the Districts; and they wish to work on those bridges that have a high need as they have not had the means to work on those bridges. Mr. Najera commented that, looking at the southeast inventory, which is primarily in fair condition, they cannot guarantee they will be able to work on any of the bridges and spoke to potential benefit for entities that have processes in place to do survey work, plans, etc. Funding can be utilized for design and construction. Members were reminded that these are federal funds, and they do have to meet the NEPA process. The Department will try to assist local governments in that process. If the Department does not spend the 45 million entirely in the first year, it does carry over to the following year. The fifth year would be when they would need to make sure all funds are spent. Regarding the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, Mr. Rodriguez added that there is funding for other items such as culverts, low water crossings, etc.

Christopher Little, Mescalero Apache Tribe, inquired on a contact so the Tribe may get their bridge inspections on the bridge list. Jeff Vigil asked if the routes were BIA routes, and the member confirmed they were. BIA routes are inspected by BIA or federal lands. Mr. Vigil commented that he would get the contact information for the tribal entity. The Chair commented that he did not see any reason why they would not want to use NMDOT's recommendations; requested an email go out with a survey; and suggested an action item for the next meeting. Louis Najer commented that the City of Roswell has already been meeting with the Bridge Department and spoke to the status of their projects on the list that were poor-rated bridges; the City's bridge priorities and approach for design; and requests for funding submitted to the Legislature. Light discussion continued on responsibility of NMDOT and local bridges. The Department is willing to assist local governments through the design process, and Mr. Vigil also confirmed that this funding is now available. A member inquired on bridge responsibility if the bridge is on a state highway within municipal boundaries. Mr. Vigil confirmed that if the bridge is on a DOT route, it belongs to DOT.

PRESENTATION: **NEW MEXICO FREIGHT PLAN**
Joseph Moriarty, Technical & Freight Planning Supervisor
NMDOT Planning Division

Mr. Moriarty explained that the new 2045 New Mexico Freight Plan Update will establish the planning and programming framework for freight funding for the State of New Mexico. He added that an update is required every four years to be federally compliant and receive National Highway Program funding, which translates to approximately \$15 million a year. The Plan is greater than the individual funding program as it serves as the Department's strategy and programming/planning document for the future. A diagram presenting the freight plan update process was displayed. Mr. Moriarty commented that the Division has engaged a Freight

Advisory Committee which is made up of freight industry representatives as well as federal, state, and local government representation. High Street Consulting is performing some of the technical background work on economic context and identifying freight corridors and freight bottlenecks. The team is moving into identifying system condition, needs and resources. The goal is to develop a strategy and process to help program National Highway Freight Program funding.

The Planning Team and Outreach Audiences were displayed and consist of the Planning Team (Mr. Moriarty, Freight Planning Program Manager; Rosa Kozub, Multimodal Planning & Programs Bureau Chief; and High Street Consulting Group) and Outreach Audiences (Freight Advisory Committee; MPOs and RTPOs; and Freight Working Group). Mr. Moriarty is making presentations throughout the state, and the Team is very interested in receiving input. The internal freight working groups is composed of NMDOT Engineering Districts, as well NMDOT units such as ITS and international programs (District 1). The Freight Supervisor presented the project timeline. The planning process started in the Fall of 2021, and the first Freight Advisory Committee meeting was held in February. NMDOT is currently working on the strategic direction, compiling facts, and beginning to draft the document. A second Freight Advisory Committee meeting is planned for June or July. The goal is to produce a federally compliant New Mexico Freight update in November. A copy of the presentation will be submitted to the RTPO planners. Mr. Moriarty requested any comments or suggestions that are unique to each entity's locality.

A link to the 2045 Freight Plan was provided. The website contains the first presentation to the Freight Advisory Committee, a meeting summary and previous plans. Also available is a comments section where one may make individual comments. Mr. Moriarty explained that along with the presentation, this is an invitation for anyone who is interested to join the process.

ACTION ITEMS

A. Transportation Project Fund (TPF) Timeline Approval

A draft Timeline has been submitted to members. The Chair requested that District 2 comment on the PFF portion and format. Louis Matta, District 2, provided that they are open to doing in person or virtual/hybrid meetings. The Chair provided that SERTPO has separated the funding in three areas: design, capital, and maintenance. He asked if the District would expect a PFF for each category to which Mr. Matta concurred. The PFF, location map, cover letter, resolution and ROW letter are due April 14, 2022. The Chair inquired if the District wanted one resolution for all projects or one resolution for each project. Discussion followed, to include having one resolution that speaks to the 95%; ease of use when dealing with City Council; and the local entity's responsibility (5%). Mr. Matta stated what the District is looking for on the resolution is that the entity can fund the match (5%).

Mr. Rodriguez commented that it helpful to have the other documents named in the timeline with the PFF submission. Light discussion followed, with the Chair clarifying that environmental clearances are a part of federal funding and not a part of TPF [state] funding. Other time frames were mentioned (i.e., District reviews beginning 4/18/22 and meeting packet deadline of 5/12/2022). Mr. Matta stated that if the entity is going to be on NMDOT ROW, all five certifications are required. If the project(s) is on the local entity's ROW, it will be up to the local entity to certify. Discussion touched on the ROW support letter being on local entity's letterhead with a signature and date line on the bottom for the District 2 Engineer. Mr. Najjar provided that the NMDOT General Office (GO) does not give any clearances until there is a control number. Member inquiry was made if the District 2 wanted the D2 ROW letter with the PFF or final application package. Mr. Matta gave an overview of what to include in the ROW letter. Inquiry was also made if the local entity needs a letter of support from property owners where their ROW is required. Mr. Matta clarified that this is just a DOT support letter [D2 ROW letter], however if the local entity acquires ROW, the District would like the entity to follow the federal process. If the local entity is going to be requesting federal funding at a later date, the local entity must make sure they follow the federal process. Mr.

Rodriguez commented that they have had letters of support from private landowners, hand-written, in the northeast. The hand-written letters boost local support (and not just regional) for the project. The submission of the resolution was discussed, with a copy of a draft resolution being submitted with the PFF if a signed resolution is not yet available. A resolution may be submitted beyond April 14th. Mr. Rodriguez suggested that entities already start the planning process for TPF in the next year. Francisco Sanchez, D2 Engineer, commented that there is a lot of gray area with TPF, as everyone had been looking at this as a federal process. He indicated that he supports the evaluation, and it is a good direction for SERTPO. Mr. Sanchez introduced their new government liaison, Manon Arnett. She will be a direct liaison for all agencies, whether its cities or counties and will be the direct contact with any issues.

A member made inquiry if they can use one map with multiple projects (which was acceptable), and inquiry was made if a D2 ROW letter is required if the right of way is a short distance (D2 ROW letter was required). Louis Najar made a motion to approve the Transportation Project Fund (TPF) Timeline, as presented. Ricky Lovato seconded the motion. With no objections raised, the motion passed unanimously.

B. Resolution No. 22-003 Approving Public Notice Requirements of the SERTPO

Ms. Burr explained the resolution, which is approved annually. Louis Najar made a motion to approve Resolution No. 22-003 Approving Public Notice Requirements of the SERTPO. Clint Bunch seconded the motion. With no objections, the motion passed unanimously.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

SERTPO Program Managers Update

Regarding the TAP/RTP awards anticipated during the month of March, Mary Ann Burr reported that NMDOT is awaiting official numbers, their funding targets, and once received, award announcements will be forthcoming. RTPO staff have been working on updating sections on the RTP and are working towards calling the subcommittee together for a meeting, whether virtual or in person. Ms. Burr spoke of the safety educational program with recent distribution of safety education books to local entities and will continue with purchases and plans to reach all local governments. The bylaws revision is near completion and should be ready for the next meeting on May 19, 2022. The May meeting is expected to be a longer meeting with the TPF. Light discussion was held on number of items on the agenda, and all agreed to no educational presentations for the meeting. When a draft agenda is prepared, it will be determined whether to include bylaws and election of officers or include at a separate meeting. Quarterly reports will be available at the next meeting (current meeting date is the end of the quarter).

Mr. Rodriguez encouraged members to continue working their TPF applications and reminded them of the April 14th deadline. Final application packets will be uploaded by RTPO staff onto NMDOT website by May 31, 2022. He reminded members of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law which has several infrastructure programs that previously were not funded nationally. Funding for the RAISE program is included and the deadline to apply for that program is April 14, 2022. There is a higher match for local entities in the amount of 14.56%, and it is a reimbursement program. Funding may go higher than 80% if the project is in a community or county of historical disadvantage or poverty. Mr. Rodriguez utilized the website tool provided to search for southeast counties in these categories and believes there are none except for tribal entities. Tribal entities can leverage federal funds for their match. The Rural Surface Transportation Grant program, which has \$300 million available, has a deadline of May 23, 2022. RAISE, a national infrastructure investments program, has 1.5 billion and the deadline is April 14, 2022. The technical assistance grants, with a \$1 million award ceiling, has a deadline of April 27, 2022. The Competitive Funding Opportunity Low or No Emissions grant program, with 1.1 billion available, has a deadline of May 31, 2022. There are many other programs being funded, such as storm water, drainage, etc. For additional information, he urged members to visit the www.rtpnm.org website on the Resources tab.

Local Project Updates / NMDOT Updates

Louis Matta informed members that the LGRF monies are in, with approximately three million to disburse to local entities. The funding amount did increase slightly. The District received \$9 million+ in requests, so not all entities can be completely funded. Regarding construction, the District has several projects, to include Carlsbad, Carrizozo, Vaughn (bridge) and Alamogordo (cutler project). Mr. Matta thanked all for their LGRF applications.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Rodriguez commented that postings of trainings and current documentation on TPF is available at the www.rtpnm.org website.

NEXT MEETING DATE

May 19, 2022 is the next SERTPO meeting date. Light discussion held on TPF presentations. While it has not been officially voted upon and is not a requirement, the Chair commented that it would be good practice that the entities be in attendance and present their project applications, so members may discuss and vote. Louis Najar added that it behooves the entity to be present in case there are any questions and gives the entity the opportunity to counter and give members more information that may have been missed.

ADJOURNMENT

Louis Najar made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Kevin Kennedy seconded the motion. Motion passed.

APPROVED BY:

Policy/Technical Committee Chair/Vice Chair

Date

ATTESTED BY:

SERTPO Program Manager

Date