

Meeting Minutes
 Northeast Regional Transportation Planning Organization (NERTPO)
 City of Tucumcari
 1500 U.S. R 66, Tucumcari, NM 88401
 October 29th, 2025
 10:00 a.m.



Meeting Attendees

Present/Absent	Name	Entity	Voting/Alternate
Present	Jason Phillips	City of Raton	Alternate
Present	Ralph Lopez	City of Tucumcari	Voting Member
Present	Mishon Peay	City of Tucumcari	Alternate
Present	Rebecca Benavidez	Guadalupe County	Voting Member
Present	Victoria Villareal	Harding County	Voting Member
Present	John N. Romero	Mora County	Voting Member
Present	Ferron Lucero - Vice-Chair	Town of Clayton	Voting Member
Present	Clay Kiesling	Union County	Voting Member
Present	Julie Kulhan	Village of Angel Fire	Alternate
Present	Shawn Jeffrey - Chairwoman	Village of Cimarron	Voting Member
Present	Ferron Lucero - Vice-Chair	Village of Eagle Nest	Alternate
Present	Shawn Jeffrey	Village of Maxwell	Alternate
Present	Dallas Baker	Village of Mosquero	Voting Member
Present	Cynthia Lee	Village of San Jon	Voting Member
Absent	Danny Gurule	City of Las Vegas	Voting Member
Absent	Arnold Lopez	City of Las Vegas	Alternate
Absent	Scott Berry	City of Raton	Voting Member
Absent	Ken Flores	City of Santa Rosa	Voting Member
Absent	Heather Dostie	City of Santa Rosa	Alternate
Absent	Glen Stevens	Colfax County	Alternate
Absent	Bret E. Wier	Colfax County	Voting Member
Absent	Rudy Tenorio	Guadalupe County	Alternate
Absent	Daniela Hammer	Harding County	Alternate
Absent	Monica Mondragon	Mora County	Alternate
Present	Stephen Salas	Quay County	Voting Member
Absent	Daniel Zamora	Quay County	Alternate
Absent	Martin Aguilar	San Miguel County	Alternate
Absent	Benito Romero	San Miguel County	Voting Member
Absent	Ernest Sanchez	Town of Clayton	Alternate
Absent	Jennifer Portillos	Town of Springer	Voting Member
Absent	Vacant	Town of Springer	Alternate
Absent	Rachel Farnum	Union County	Alternate
Absent	Morris Madrid	Village of Angel Fire	Voting Member

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	Jamie Archuleta	Village of Eagle Nest	Voting Member
Absent	Alice Adams	Village of Folsom	Voting Member
Absent	Amanda Boggs	Village of Folsom	Alternate
Absent	Mignon Saddoris	Village of Grenville	Voting Member
Absent	Lynn Wiseman	Village of Grenville	Alternate
Absent	Tomi Miller	Village of House	Voting Member
Absent	Steve Foust	Village of House	Alternate
Absent	Rodney Paris	Village of Logan	Voting Member
Absent	Jai Courtney	Village of Logan	Alternate
Absent	Carala Taylor	Village of Maxwell	Voting Member
Absent	Barbara June Melton	Village of Mosquero	Alternate
Absent	Telesfor Benavidez	Village of Pecos	Voting Member
Absent	Vacant	Village of Pecos	Alternate
Absent	Danny Laumbach	Village of Roy	Voting Member
Absent	Clayton Moore	Village of Roy	Alternate
Absent	Wade Lane	Village of San Jon	Alternate
Absent	Andres Martinez	Village of Wagon Mound	Voting Member
Absent	Colleen Engelhardt	Village of Wagon Mound	Alternate

Julie Surina, EPCOG
 Raymond Mondragon, EPCOG
 Patrick Million, NCNMEDD
 Aiden Beining, NMNMEDD
 Monica Duran, NMDOT
 Alison Gillette, NMDOT
 Kevin Olinger, NMDOT
 Billie Jo Barnes, Village of San Jon
 Quade Fury, Quay Road Department
 Darla Munsell, Quay County
 Marcy Willis, City of Tucumcari
 Stephen Salas, City of Tucumcari
 Jennifer Romero, Mora County

Call to Order

The Meeting was called to order at 10:05am by Chairwoman Shawn Jeffrey

Pledge of Allegiance/New Mexico State Flag

The Pledge of Allegiance and the salute to the New Mexico State Flag was led by Chairwoman Shawn Jeffrey



Welcome

Chair Jeffrey welcomed the attendees and opened the floor for introductions.

Approval of Agenda

Motion to approve the agenda as presented: Chairwoman Shawn Jeffrey

1st Motion- Cynthia Lee, San Jon

2nd- Clay Kiesling, Union County

There being no opposition, MOTION CARRIES

Approval of Minutes – August 27th

Motion to approve the minutes as presented: Shawn Jeffrey

1st Motion- Clay Kiesling, Union County

2nd- Julie Kulhun, Angel Fire

There being no opposition, MOTION CARRIES

Action- Res No 2025-01 Open Meetings Act

A resolution was presented which stated that online attendees must now have cameras on when voting on committee affairs. A vote was taken to pass the resolution.

There being no opposition, MOTION CARRIES

Presentation- New Mexico State Rail Plan-Kevin Olinger, Transit and Rail Division

Director NMDOT Rail Bureau

Mr. Olinger introduced himself and his line of work. His presentation would online the long- and short-term goals of the New Mexico Rail Bureau. He began by outlining the key reasons why the Rail Plan needed updating:

- A long-term service and investment program must be identified for both freight and passenger rail improvements. The 2045 Plan has not been updated since 2014.
- A project being included in the Rail Plan gives it more traction.
- Systemic analysis is Federally required.

Mr. Olinger presented a map of the existing rail lines in New Mexico and gave some facts about the extent of the network.

- New Mexico is a crucial node in the transcontinental rail network.
- 550 million tons of cargo passed through New Mexico via rail in 2023.
- 1 million passengers were carried in 2024.

Mr. Olinger outlined the vision for New Mexico Rail:

- A fully integrated multimodal system.
- An efficient passenger service within, and outside of, New Mexico.
- Rail remains integral to transcontinental shipping.
- Supports sustainable and inclusive economic development statewide.
- Continue improvements in safety and security, including railway crossings and their impact on local mobility.
- Improve state of short rail lines as well as the Rail Runner lines.
- Improve connections between local rail and Amtrak.

- These plans will constitute the Rail Service and Investment Program (RSIP) Which will include the following programs:
- Program of projects awarded or seeking Federal funding
- Short Range Investment Program (2025-2030)
 - Planning Studies
 - NMRX rolling stock replacements
 - Infrastructure maintenance
 - Amtrak station improvements
 - Grade separation safety improvements
- Long Range Investment Program (2031-2045)
 - Capacity upgrades for passenger rail
 - Additional Amtrak services
 - San Juan County Freight Line
 - Santa Teresa International Rail Border Crossing



Mr. Olinger shared a QR code that contained a Draft Plan for public review. A final plan will be presented later to address questions raised by this Draft Plan. He then opened the floor to questions.

Q: Is there a contract with the freight train owners dictating how long trains can block traffic?

A: The answer is essentially no.

Q: If a community is a designated quiet zone, what is the responsibility of that community to upgrade the rail crossing to fit that noise limit?

A: Mr. Olinger offered a private meeting to discuss the issue.

Presentation - 2026 Legislative Session and Capital Outlay- Raymond Mondragon, EPCOG Government Specialist

Mr. Mondragon's updates were as follows:

- Mr. Mondragon informed the attendees of an upcoming legislative session, prompting them to have their Capital Outlay ready. The legislation opening day is Jan. 20th 2026.
- A legislative forum will be at Mesa Lands Community College on December 16th at noon. NERTPO and NPRTPO are invited. An RSVP is required.
- The NM Military Base Planning Commission has motioned the Governor to allow compacts in New Mexico.
- He stated that entities with remaining Capital Outlay funds should not seek reauthorization, since the funds could be taken back.
- He stated that submitting your top three projects was the best option for the upcoming legislative session. Sending a large number of projects could be unproductive
- EPCOG has received 100,000 dollars in capacity money. The EPCOG website can be visited for more information.

Patrick Million of NCNMEDD asked the membership if a presentation on Capital Outlay was appealing to them, several responded positively. He also added that American Planning Association would be holding a conference in Taos from November 12-15th.

Discussion- Any ICIP or new CAPS system questions- Sandy Chancey EPCOG Executive Director

Mr. Mondragon filled in for Ms. Chancey. Beside the CAPS website training sessions, there were no major updates.

NERTPO Planners/Program Managers Reports - (NERTPO Planners)

- Mr. Million offered the help of NCNMEDD to assist with ICIP.
- He reminded the membership of NMDOT surveys that were still being circulated.
- There are several funding opportunities available in light of Federal funding drying up, but none are applicable to the membership.
- NMHU and Las Vegas recently secured a grant through a nonprofit for EV charging.
- Nonprofit funding opportunities include:
 - Creative Industries Grant from the Economic Development Department
 - Community Possible Grants from US Bank
 - The Geico Philanthropic Foundation
- The next round of Trails Plus is on November 1st. These grants are becoming more competitive.
- AASHTO Meeting and Conference is in Salt Lake City November 17th-20th.
- LTAP is offering traffic control technician training.



Mr. Mondragon spoke on a new casino being developed outside of Clovis, alongside a number of new commercial and residential developments around the area.

Discussion: NMDOT District IV Update (District IV Engineer and NMDOT Staff)

Monica Duran, NMDOT, began her updates:

- Match waivers will be released in November
- Complete packets (resolutions and letters) are appreciated
- Emails sent to Ms. Duran should be CC'd to her colleagues as well
- Notice of obligation for Capital Outlay should be sent in soon

Alison Gillette of NMDOT began her updates:

- Federal Govt shutdown should not affect existing transit projects
- If you have a question about a grant, reach out to Alison or the NCNMEDD Transportation staff
- The Non-Metropolitan Survey is still active, collecting feedback about NMDOT's performance in rural areas.
- NMDOT is still accepting proposals for Transportation Planning Services
- City of Las Vegas was awarded TAP funding for the River Walk project
- State Land Office received RTP funding for trail assessment
- Upcoming opportunities include:
 - Land and Water Conservation Fund
 - Tribal Transportation Program Safety Fund
 - New Mexico Match Fund
 - Local Government Planning Fund
- New Mexico Infrastructure Finance Conference is upcoming, as is the New Mexico APA Annual Conference

Discussion: Project Status Update (Local Government Members)

New Business

- A. General Comments and Announcements from NERTPO members and Public Comments
- Tucumcari has made headway on its resurfacing project as well as its 3rd and 4th street renovations.
 - Mora County has made headway on various projects as well.
 - Town of Clayton has seen success with CDBG Grants.
 - Mr. Mondragon reminded the group of the Route 66 Centennial Celebration in 2026.
 - Patrick Million brought up a Historic Signage Grant through the Pomeroy Foundation that could be applicable to Route 66 signage.
 - There is a TLPA certification course occurring next week.
 - Maxwell is moving forward with its wastewater management project.



B. Suggested agenda items for upcoming meetings
 Begin to discuss TPF. Discuss legislative session

C. Meeting Location Amendments
 November 19, 2025- Angel Fire
 December- TBD

XIV. Adjournment

With there being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned by Chairwoman Shawn Jeffrey at 11:28 A.M.

1st Motion- Stephen Salas, Harding County.

2nd- Clay Kiesling, Union County.

APPROVED BY:

 NERTPO Committee Chair/Vice Chair

 Date

ATTESTED BY:

 NERTPO EPCOG Program Manager

 Date

ATTESTED BY:

 NERTPO NCNMEDD Program Manager

 Date