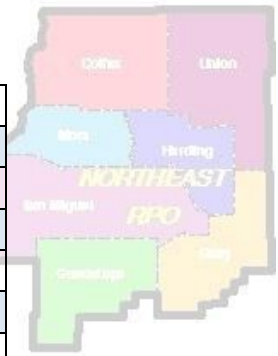


Regular Meeting Minutes
 Northeast Regional Transportation Planning
 Organization (NERTPO) Hosted by the Eastern Plains
 Council of Governments and
 North Central New Mexico Economic Development
 District
 ONLINE
 March 23, 2022
 10:00 a.m.



Meeting Attendees

Present	Jason Phillips	City of Raton	Alternate
Present	Robert Thompson	Colfax County	Alternate
Present	Samuel Blea	Town of Springer	Voting Member
Present	Shawn Jeffrey - Chairwoman	Village of Cimarron	Voting Member
Present	Ferron Lucero - Vice- Chair	Town of Clayton	Voting Member
Present	Magdalena Sandoval	Mora County	Alternate
Present	Ken Flores	Guadalupe County	Alternate
Present	Julie Kulhan	Village of Angel Fire	Alternate
Present	Monica Abeyta	Guadalupe County	Voting Member
Present	Clay Kiesling	Union 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	Cynthia Lee	Village of San Jon	Voting Member
Present	Ernest Sanchez	Town of Clayton	Alternate
Present	Gerald Garcia	San Miguel County	Voting Member
Present	Vicki Strand	City of Tucumcari	Voting Member
Present	Dallas Baker	Village of Mosquero	Voting Member
Absent	Heather Dostie	City of Santa Rosa	Voting Member
Absent	Bret E. Wier	Colfax County	Voting Member
Absent	Vacant	San Miguel County	Alternate
Absent	Jeff Carr	Village of Eagle Nest	Voting Member
Absent	Ralph Lopez	City of Tucumcari	Alternate
Absent	Mary Berglund	Village of Eagle Nest	Alternate
Absent	Sarah Arias	Town of Springer	Alternate
Absent	John N. Romero	Mora County	Voting Member
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	Scott Berry	City of Raton	Voting Member
Absent	Vacant	City of Las Vegas	Alternate
Absent	Martin Martinez	City of Santa Rosa	Alternate
Absent	Angie Gonzales	Union County	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 Saddoris	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	Scott Parnell	Village of Logan	Voting Member
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	Wade Lane	Village of San Jon	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)

Samantha Sandoval – NMDOT LGRF Program Planner

John Herrera – NMDOT District 4 Assistant Engineer

Joe Moriarty – NMDOT Freight and Planning Division Supervisor

John Neunuebel – NMDOT NERTPO Liaison

Rosa Kozub – NMDOT Multimodal Planning & Programs Bureau Chief

Joe Kiely – Ports-to-Plains Alliance, Vice President of Operations

Tyler Davis – Engineering Analytics

Boe Lopez – Town of Springer, Mayor

I. Call to Order

The Meeting was called to order at 10:04 AM by Chairwoman Shawn Jeffrey, Village of Cimarron.



II. Pledge of Allegiance/New Mexico State Flag

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

III. Welcome

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

Individual introductions were conducted by all in attendance.

IV. Approval of Agenda

Raymond Mondragon, EPCOG, asked for an approval of the agenda to allow Mr. Joe Kiely, Ports to Plains, a chance to speak before item VI regarding the Ports-to-Plains Interstate Highway Corridor designation.

Chairwoman Shawn Jeffrey opened the review and approval of the agenda with addition of Mr. Joe Kiely, Ports to Plains, inserted before item VI.

Motion to approve the agenda as presented: Robert Thompson, Colfax County
 Second: Cynthia Lee, Village of San Jon

Roll call:

Entity	Representative	Vote
Colfax County	Robert Thompson	Yes
Guadalupe County	Ken Flores	Yes
Mora County	Magdalena Sandoval	Yes
San Miguel County	Gerald Garcia	Yes
Quay County	Larry Moore	Yes
City of Raton	Jason Phillips	Yes
City of Tucumcari	Vicki Strand	Yes
Town of Clayton	Vice-Chair Ferron Lucero	Yes
Town of Springer	Samuel Blea	Yes
Village of Angel Fire	Julie Kulhan	Yes
Village of Cimarron	Chairwoman Shawn Jeffrey	Yes
Village of Mosquero	Dallas Baker	Yes
Village of Roy	Danny Laumbach	Yes
Village of San Jon	Cynthia Lee	Yes

All present voted in the affirmative. Motion carries.

V. Approval of Minutes February 2022 – (EPCOG and NCNMEDD virtual)

Chairwoman Shawn Jeffrey opened the review and approval of the minutes from the February 23rd, 2022, monthly meeting. With no comments provided, the Chairwoman moved for a motion.

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



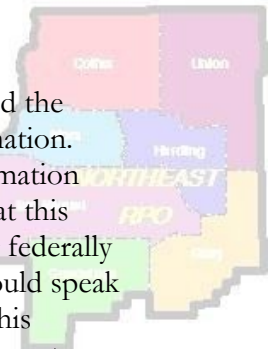
Roll call:

Entity	Representative	Vote
Colfax County	Robert Thompson	Yes
Guadalupe County	Ken Flores	Yes
Mora County	Magdalena Sandoval	Yes
San Miguel County	Gerald Garcia	Yes
Quay County	Larry Moore	Yes
City of Raton	Jason Phillips	Yes
City of Tucumcari	Vicki Strand	Yes
Town of Clayton	Vice-Chair Ferron Lucero	Yes
Town of Springer	Samuel Blea	Yes
Village of Angel Fire	Julie Kulhan	Yes
Village of Cimarron	Chairwoman Shawn Jeffrey	Yes
Village of Mosquero	Dallas Baker	Yes
Village of Roy	Danny Laumbach	Yes
Village of San Jon	Cynthia Lee	Yes

All present voted in the affirmative. Motion carries.

VI. Discussion: Ports-to-Plains Interstate Corridor Designation – (Mr. Joe Kiely, Ports-to-to Plains Alliance, Vice President of Operations)

Mr. Joe Kiely, Ports-to-Plains Alliance, updated membership about the approval of the Ports-to-Plains Interstate designation which includes portions in Texas and New Mexico. The language to designate the corridor as a future interstate was included in federal legislation passing in the U.S. House of Representatives and, ultimately, being excluded in the U.S. Senate. In June 2021 the U.S. Senate Appropriations Committee included the language to designate the Texas and New Mexico Ports-to-Plains corridor as a future interstate. During the 2022 Legislative Sessions a bill both houses of Congress approved the bill designating the Ports-to-Plains corridor as an Interstate Highway and the President of the United States, Joe Biden, signed the bill into law on March 21, 2022. The next opportunity for federal funding to develop the Ports-to-Plains Corridor will be in FFY 23 appropriations bill beginning to be formed by President Biden and U.S. lawmakers in Washington D.C. President Biden will issue his draft appropriations bill Monday March 28, 2022. Mr. Kiely asked if there are existing projects along the New Mexico Ports-to-Plains Corridor that would benefit from more federal funds? Also, would the NMDOT support if the Ports-to-Plains Alliance could help obtaining planning funds for planning perspectives for development of this newly



designated interstate? Raymond Mondragon, EPCOG, advised that NMDOT funded the Economic Impact Study that was conducted for the Ports-to-Plains interstate designation. Mr. Mondragon asked if the NMDOT has spoken about any updates or other information regarding this issue. Joe Moriarty, NMDOT, and Rosa Kozub, NMDOT, replied that this was the first time they heard of this measure being approved and this corridor being federally designated as a future interstate. Ms. Kozub suggested that, internally, NMDOT should speak to the Secretary of Transportation's office to formulate and approach for handling this moving forward. No additional information from NMDOT now. The Economic Impact Study suggested that there will be a direct impact on Union and Colfax Counties including 10,770 created during construction and 3,448 permanent jobs created by 2040. Vice-Chair Lucero questioned whether the current spur of Ports-to-Plains Corridor traveling through Clayton and Raton will be designated and official interstate. Mr. Kiely said that the only section that was approved for future designation are the current sections in Texas and New Mexico from Laredo, TX to Raton, NM. The future interstate is slated to be titled Interstate 27. The Economic Impact Study for the Ports-to-Plains Corridor projected potential increase of economic development by approximately \$98 billion. Jason Phillips, Raton, asked if this designation will have any effect on the current Highway 87 project in progress. Mr. Kiely responded that this may very well be future interstate connect for Raton to Interstate 25 and could require a redesigned interchange.

VII. Discussion: NMDOT Freight Plan Presentation – (Mr. Joseph Moriarty, NMDOT Technical & Freight Planning Unit Supervisor)

Mr. Joe Moriarty, NMDOT Freight and Planning Supervisor, presented the 2045 Freight Plan update. This is an ongoing process for NMDOT outreach to RPTO and MPO entities. There are a few different categories of freight considered for this plan. This includes Truck, Rail, and Intermodal. This plan will help to identify new and emerging technologies that will help to improve New Mexico Infrastructure. This plan will change to include the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) that has passed federal legislation and signed by President Biden guidelines to ensure that New Mexico is within compliance of this new law. This plan will ensure that New Mexico is compliant with all new freight requirements to assure the ability to obtain the federal level freight funding of about \$15 million a year. The true focal point of this plan is to lay out the planning division's collection of freight movement throughout the state and guide the freight division's framework moving forward. The plan initiated in late 2021 and restarted the NMDOT Freight Advisory Committee. The project timeline for the NMDOT 2045 Freight Plan Update began in Fall 2021/Winter 2022, and the plan will be finalized in Fall 2022.

VIII. Discussion: FFY 2023 Transportation Project Fund (TPF) updates and presentation – (NERTPO Planners)

Paul Sittig, NCMEDD, presented the FFY 2023 Transportation Project Fund (TPF) refresher to membership. The presentation is to introduce first time TPF applicants and re-introduce previous applicants to the overall process for the TPF application process. Mr. Sittig stated the difference in timelines from this year compared to last and defined the meaning of shovel ready. Mr. Sittig detailed the different project phases and project types that may be applied for in this funding opportunity. Utility work will qualify if it is part of the

overall process and not a stand-alone project. John Herrera, NMDOT, clarified that only complete roadway reconstruction would be able to include utility work as an eligible expense. Mr. Herrera noted that your consultant will tell you what is the best scope for the project, mill and overlay or complete reconstruction to include utility work. Mr. Sittig presented the project scopes from the Local Government Road Fund (LGRF) handbook, provided by Samantha Sandoval, NMDOT.



The final TPF application includes 5 different parts:

1. TPF Project Feasibility Form (PFF)
2. Cover Letter
3. Resolution of sponsorship from governing body, or an official letter signed by the potential grantee's chief executive or official with budget authority, indicating the availability of the 5% match
4. Map of project location
5. Letter of support from Right of Way (ROW) owner, if ROW is not owned by the applicant

Mr. Sittig reviewed the NERTPO TPF Timeline.

- **January 31, 2022** - RTPO staff sent out call for projects.
- **March 23, 2022** - NERTPO meeting where members discuss TPF application process to date, review any new materials from NMDOT, ask District 4 and RTPO staff questions.
- **April 6, 2022** - Deadline for entities to submit PFFs to RTPO staff, who will track submittals and forward them to the District.
- **April 27, 2022** - District to return reviewed and signed PFFs to entities.
- **May 23, 2022** - Members submit final application packets to RTPO staff.
- **May 25, 2022** - NERTPO meeting for Rating and Ranking only.
- **May 27, 2022** - RTPO staff upload application packets and final NERTPO rated and ranked project list, to NMDOT FTP.

The State Transportation Commission meets and decides on approved projects and NMDOT will distribute letters of award the first (1st) week of September 2022. By the end of September entities will submit their final request for hardship match waivers and accept the award. There is a 30-month time period the complete a project after awarding to funds. Projects with prior federal funding are ineligible for TPF funding, to ensure projects can be completed in this window. "Soft" or in-kind matches not allowed. Capital Outlay is eligible for local match, if the law language falls in line with the scope of work for the TPF project.

In response to a question about including sidewalk improvements, Mr. Herrera said that those improvements were eligible, and suggested that entities review their ADA improvement plans to identify needed improvements. He also suggested that applicants phase plans for design in one year, then return to ask for funding for construction next year, to capitalize on this annual call for projects. Entities could also work to align funding for utility work in future years and ask for road improvement funds at the appropriate time, to avoid having to repair the road after improving underground infrastructure. Mr. Sittig and Mr. Rodriguez noted that they could help members find utility repair funds.



IX. Discussion: NMDOT Bridge Prioritization List approval

NERTPO Planners sent out a poll asking if the NERTPO membership agrees with the NMDOT Bridge Prioritization List and received 10 responses, 9 of which supported NMDOT's prioritization. The list contains non-state-owned bridge conditions. The new funding for local bridges from the BIL is about \$5 million per year for local bridges across the state, for the next 5 years.

X. Discussion: RTP Update – (RTPO Planners and NCNMEDD Transportation Intern)

Mr. Paul Sittig, NCNMEDD, presented updates of the NERTPO RTP. A few updates will include Challenges and Priorities identified in the survey, expanding on safety data to support the survey, adding reference to changing demographics, adding climate change adaptation, and input on goals and strategies. Mr. Sittig reviewed the NERTPO survey results regarding: Transportation Challenges, Safety Concerns and Population forecasts. Mr. Sittig discussed the Goals and Strategies to members and asked for questions. With no questions, Chairwoman Jeffrey moved to the next topic.

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

Mr. Rodriguez, EPCOG, updated membership about legislation that was passed in the previous Legislative Session and Capital Outlay. Mr. Rodriguez also reminded membership that the federal RAISE grants are due April 15th by end of day. The website membership can go to RTPONM.org and find the link for the application.

Mr. Sittig, NCNMEDD, updated membership that he was getting ready to begin the initial TPF process.

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

Ms. Samantha Sandoval, NMDOT LGRF District 4 Coordinator, updated membership regarding LGRF solicitation letters. TPF and MAP agreements are expiring, and close-out documents should be sent in soon. If you are requesting a time extension for the MAP agreements, please get them in before the end of June. Ms. Sandoval extended her services. Ms. Rosa Kozub introduced John Neunuebel, the NERTPO Planning Liaison replacing Joe Moriarty.

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

There being none, item closed.

XIV. New Business

- A. General Comments and Announcements from NERTPO members and Public Comment.
- B. Suggested Agenda items for upcoming meetings – nothing presented by members.

LTAP training suggestion. ADA training suggestion.

C. Meeting Location Amendments – Chairwoman Jeffrey suggested in person for the next meeting. Raul Rodriguez III suggested Union County’s new county administration building.



- ❖ **April 27th, 2022 – Union County**
- ❖ **May 25, 2022 – TBD**
- ❖ **June 22, 2022 - TBD**

XV. Adjournment

With there being no further business to discuss, Chair Jeffrey asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Jason Phillips, City of Raton, made the motion, and Robert Thompson, Colfax County, seconded the motion. Chair Jeffrey adjourned the meeting adjourned at 12:15 PM.