

**New Mexico Regional Transportation Planning Organizations
Quarterly Roundtable Meeting
Northwest New Mexico Council of Governments
106 West Aztec, Gallup, New Mexico
June 22, 2018 10:00 am – 2:00 pm**

Meeting Minutes

Attendance:

- Robert Kuipers – NWRTPPO
- Brandon Howe – MRRTPO
- Mary Ann Burr – SERTPO
- Vincent Soule – EPRTPO – call in
- Eric Ghahate – NPRTPO
- Cerisse Grijalva – SWRTPO – call in
- Angela Rael – SCRTPO – call in
- Evan Williams – NWNMCOG Deputy Director
- Jeff Kiely, NWNMCOG Exec. Director
- Dennis Salazar – NCNMEDD – call in
- Neala Krueger – RTPO Liaison, NMDOT
- Ron Shutiva – NMDOT Tribal Liaison
- Rosa Kozub – NMDOT Planning
- Jolene Herrera – NMDOT Planning – call in
- Laurie Miskimins – FHWA Central Federal Lands Highway Division - Presenter

Handouts:

- Power Point handout – Laurie Miskimins: Federal Lands Planning and Funding Opportunities
- NMDOT Planning Procedures Manual Amendment – Rosa Kozub “Introduction and Purpose” section, pp. 4 – 14
- SERTPO RTIPR – Mary Ann Burr – as example of RTIPR for discussion
- ZIA Rides Mountain Bike Events – 24 Hours in the Enchanted Forest – Robert Kuipers – example of Recreational Trails Development thru NWRTPPO / NWNMCOG collaboration with National Forest Staff as an economic driver with 200+ miles of non-motorized trails in development within the Zuni Mountains of Cibola and McKinley Counties. This 24 hour race occurring June 23, 2018 brings in around 150 mountain bikers from around the nation, along with their families.

1) Welcome and Introductions: Jeff Kiely, Executive Director for the Northwest New Mexico Council of Governments welcomed all participants, and invited introductions for those present and those participating via conference call-in.

2) FHWA Federal Lands Planning and Funding Opportunities:

Laurie Miskimins, FHWA Central Federal Lands Highway Division

- Federal Lands Call for Projects is coming September – October 2018, including funding for a) Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP), b) Federal Lands Transportation Program, and c) Tribal Transportation Program (TTP)
- To apply for funding, the local government entity must have a long range transportation plan in place to qualify for Federal Lands funding.
- FHWA Federal Lands program is considering the value of a collaborative long range transportation plan for the combined south-west states.
- Local governments that are interested in projects on federal lands, should start incorporating potential federal lands interests / projects into their long range transportation plans.

- In general, try to get FLAP projects into other local and regional plans (ICIP, LRTP, Comprehensive Plan, Economic Development Plan, Land Use Plan, etc.).
- Ms. Miskimins will send guidance for FLAP funding and applications.
- Over time, relationship building between local governments and the FHWA Federal Lands Program management builds the trust that assures better access to funding.
- There is currently \$24 million available to New Mexico for FFY2021 – FFY2023 projects.
- A 14.56% local funding match is required; higher match equals better funding leverage.
- Creating secondary routes can qualify for funding if fire access / escape is a concern.
- Once funded, the FLAP program can manage the entire project (cradle to grave) for planning thru construction and maintenance.
- As cited above the call for projects is expected to go out late September.
- Applications are now current / in progress for Kansas and Nebraska – go to federal website to see examples of application packages.

3) Regional Work Program Budgets:

Rosa Kozub, NMDOT Government to Government Unit Supervisor – NMDOT Statewide Planning Bureau

- Much discussion among meeting participants regarding what works and what doesn't.
- Nature of COG's is to plan and set up development (in the most time and cost efficient manner) – there was discussion that it is not the business of COG's to directly generate jobs or economic development, though COG's through their services also contribute to such development. DOT staff clarified that resulting economic or job development outcomes are not a required deliverable for RTPOs related to transportation infrastructure or service development, but if these outcomes do occur, they help represent the value of transportation investment.
- Further discussion regarding COG / RTPO funding management related to planning service outcomes, not economic or job generation outcomes; bearing this in mind, the state should propose appropriate outcomes for the funding. Ms. Kozub indicated that state DOT staff understand this, and it should not be a problem.
- In general though, going forward, funding will require stricter performance based outcomes.

4) Planning Procedures Manual (PPM) Amendment:

Rosa Kozub, NMDOT

- Rosa covered with distributed hard copies showing proposed edits for the Introduction and Purpose section; she encouraged RTPO edits / recommendations by July 15 for the Introduction and Purpose section of the PPM.

5) Discussion on Updates projected for Title VI, Public Participation Plan, and RTPO Regional Transportation Plans:

NMDOT and RTPO staff in attendance / conference call

- Title VI – an updated template will be forthcoming soon, which covers public access concerns in a much more comprehensive manner.
- Public notice must go out locally at least 72 hours before any meeting.

- Typically there is a 45 day public notice that goes out prior to the RTPO meeting to officially authorize a Title VI plan update.
- Send the Title VI plan update to Linda Ramos at NMDOT for initial review and guidance.
- DOT Long Range Transportation Plan update will commence in FFY2019 and be adopted in FFY2020; statewide RTPO's should update their Regional Transportation Plans in sync.
- DOT will provide guidance for these long range plan updates at the next RTPO quarterly.
- NMDOT is using Craig Secrest of Highstreet Consulting to assist with their plan update.

6) Discussion on FFY2019 – FFY2020 Call for Projects:

NMDOT and RTPO staff in attendance / conference call

- The RTPO's along with NMDOT staff are interested in standardizing RTIPR categories across all 7 RTIPO's. Brandon Howe at MRCOG / MRRTPO offered to take the first crack at drafting the template.
- All RTPO's will send their current RTIPR to Brandon Howe of MRRTPO; Brandon will create an initial draft template, including all categories (whether currently in use by RTPO's or emerging categories. It will be a template that offers every possible category, but each RTPO can choose which categories they wish to incorporate into their RTIPR to engage funding opportunities, based on their region's priorities. The ones' they don't engage should remain in the template, but will simply have no projects cited therein.
- Some discussion on NMDOT funding sources:
 - Most of the funding options cited in NMDOT PPM guidance are still current and viable funding sources.
 - Funding restrictions:
 - A) Bicycle, Pedestrian, Equestrian Program: does not provide funding – simply supports planning.
 - B) NMDOT does not manage funding for long range Federal Lands, or Tribal Transportation planning and studies – this funding is managed by the USDOT Federal Lands Program.
 - D) Federal Aviation Administration Airport Improvement Program works directly with airport staff on funding – not RTPO's.

7) Statewide RTPO Reports:

- RTPO members and DOT staff agreed to cancel this routine part of the meeting for reports on local projects, as we were getting well beyond 2pm.

Meeting adjourned around 2:30 pm