

Southeast Regional Transportation Planning Organization (SERTPO)

Minutes of the Policy Committee Meeting

June 7, 2018 – 10:00 am

**Bondurant Room, Roswell Public Library
Roswell, New Mexico**

POLICY MEMBERS PRESENT:

Policy Member (or Alternate) listed in Alphabetical Order

Burns, Marilyn (Mayor)	Town of Tatum
Crouch, Coby	City of Carlsbad
Duncan, Wyatt	City of Lovington
Lucero, Amanda	De Baca County
Moore, Martin	City of Eunice
Najar, Louis	City of Roswell
Porter, Tom	Otero County
Sainz, Robert (Trustee)	Village of Tularosa
Sena, Ron	Village of Ruidoso
Reid, Bruce	Lea County
Williams, Darron	City of Alamogordo

POLICY COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:

Aldridge, Stephen (Mayor)	City of Jal
Blazer, Arthur (President)	Mescalero Apache Tribe
Bradley, Jerry	City of Texico
Burnett, Mickey (Mayor)	Village of Dora
Bunch, Clint	City of Clovis
Creighton, Gene	Roosevelt County
DeSha, John	City of Portales
Fury, Dennis	Curry County
Hall, Jubal	Village of Cloudcroft
Hooper, Wesley	Eddy County
Hyatt, Richard (Mayor)	Town of Carrizozo
Ingram, Justin (Mayor)	Village of Fort Sumner
Powell, Justin	Town of Dexter
Dixon, Durward (Mayor)	Town of Elida
Estrada, Pete (Mayor)	Village of Loving
Green, Barry (Councilor)	Village of Melrose
Hobson, Aubrey	City of Artesia
King, Kris (Mayor)	Village of Causey
LaMay, Jonathan	Village of Capitan
Lovas, Mark	Town of Hagerman
Powell, Leona	Village of Grady
Props, Jack	Town of Vaughn
Randall, Todd	City of Hobbs
Salazar, Ysidro (Mayor)	Town of Lake Arthur
Sales, Rudy	Village of Hope
Weckwerth, Bill (Trustee)	Village of Corona
West, Joe	Chaves County
Whitecotton, Toni	Village of Floyd
Willard, Lynn (Commissioner)	Lincoln County
Williams, Gary (Mayor)	City of Ruidoso Downs

GUESTS PRESENT:

Anderson, Phelps
Cass, Pat
Lucero, Margaret
Marinovich, Nick
Morris, Bill
Nibert, Greg
Osborne, Debbie
Porter, Ryan
Wright, Dustin
York, Ralph

Sun Valley Energy Corporation (Roswell)
City of Carlsbad
Village of Tularosa
Lea County
City of Roswell
NM Representative – Dist. 59
City of Alamogordo
City of Roswell
City of Alamogordo
De Baca County

COG/NMDOT STAFF PRESENT:

Burr, Mary Ann

Fetherlin, Kim
Gallardo, Judith
Gililand, Donna
Glendenning, Shannon
Herrera, Jolene
Matta, Louis
Mondragon, Raymond
Soule, Vincent
Webb, Sigrid

Southeastern New Mexico Economic Development
District (SNMEDD)/Council of Governments (COG)
NMDOT – Las Cruces
NMDOT – Las Cruces
NMDOT – Roswell
NMDOT – Santa Fe
NMDOT – Las Cruces
NMDOT – Roswell
Eastern Plains Council of Governments (EPCOG)
Eastern Plains Council of Governments (EPCOG)
NMDOT - Roswell

CALL TO ORDER / QUORUM (8)**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE****INTRODUCTIONS**

Policy Vice-Chair Martin Moore (Eunice) called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. A quorum was established. Members participated with the Pledge of Allegiance, and introductions were held.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Ron Sena (Ruidoso) made a motion to approve the agenda, as presented. Louis Najar (Roswell) seconded the motion. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Louis Najar (Roswell) made a motion to approve the March 29, 2018 minutes as presented. Wyatt Duncan (Lovington) seconded the motion, and the motion was approved by unanimous vote.

PRESENTATION: Safety Target Performance Measures

Jolene Herrera, Urban & Regional Planner
NMDOT Las Cruces

Members were provided with *NMDOT Federal Fiscal Year 2018 Safety Targets*. Jolene Herrera started her presentation with background information. FHWA has made its rule for performance measures. There are three performance measures: 1) Safety; 2) Pavement & Bridge Condition with the National Highway System (NHS); and 3) Congestion & System Reliability/Redundancy. Safety is the first performance measure that FHWA has provided guidelines; therefore, NMDOT has adopted targets. Performance measures are overarching ideals of what is desired for the transportation system in the future. Targets are specific numbers related to the overarching goals. Referring to the handout listing five targets, Ms. Herrera explained that Targets 2, 3 and 4 overlap with the National Highway Traffic Safety

Administration (NHTSA). These targets are in conjunction with NHTSA—NHTSA has the same targets. The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) has directed NMDOT to set targets for the remaining two performance measures [Number of Fatalities and Number of Non-motorized Fatalities and Serious Injuries]. Additional background is provided in the handout.

Ms. Herrera displayed the graph for *Total Traffic Fatalities* and explained the *Target Statement* and data used. Martin Moore (Eunice) inquired if the graph was statewide. Ms. Herrera responded that the information presented is statewide; however, data for southeastern New Mexico may be accessed online and a link to that data can be forwarded to members by SERTPO Program Managers. The *Target Statement* is to limit the increase in total fatalities to 6.4 percent. All targets being presented are through December 31, 2018. Reasons for a projected increase include oil and gas activity picking up, distracted driving increasing and fatalities due to texting increasing. DWI rates are decreasing. Members were referred to the justification provided in the handout which explains the five-year rolling average.

The second target is *Total Serious Injuries*. Serious injuries and fatalities are reported separately. The number of serious injuries is decreasing which means roads are being designed safer and cars are safer. A slight decrease in the number of injuries is projected. The *Target Statement* is to decrease the number of serious injuries by 15.6 percent. The next target discussed was a rate representing *Fatalities per 100M VMT* (100 million vehicle miles traveled). This target was done in conjunction with NHTSA who is focused on VMT. A downward trend was reflected in the *Rate of Serious Injuries* (per 100M VMT) target with the *Target Statement* aiming for a decrease in the rate of serious injuries to 4.456%. Ms. Herrera explained with NMDOT being multimodal, they have established a safety target for the *Number of Non-Motorized Fatalities and Non-Motorized Serious Injuries*. Difficulties acquiring crash data for this performance measure included data being limited to pedestrian/bicyclist fatalities/serious injuries where a vehicle is involved, and whether the crash is reported. Further, the police Vehicle Crash Report does not have much area to expand on reasons for non-motorized crashes. New Mexico is not doing well nationally on the number of pedestrian crashes. New Mexico has the highest number in the country. Data limitations prevent pedestrian and bicyclist crashes being reported separately; therefore, pedestrian and bicyclist crashes are combined as non-motorized crashes. The *Target Statement* is to limit an increase in non-motorized fatalities/serious injuries. NMDOT is targeting areas within the State that have high numbers of non-motorized fatalities/serious injuries such as Gallup, New Mexico.

Targets for 2019 are already being developed, published in August of every year. If the targets are not met through all STIP projects, FHWA will have penalties. Unlike some states, NMDOT already spends 100% of safety funding on safety projects.

Vice-Chair Martin Moore (Eunice) commented on the extremely congested and potentially dangerous travel toward Loving, heading towards Pecos and Alpine, Texas.

PRESENTATION: **Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP)/
Recreational Trails Program (RTP) and
Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Program (CMAQ)**
Shannon Glendenning, TAP/RTP Coordinator
NMDOT Santa Fe

Shannon Glendenning explained that there are three funding opportunities for the next couple of years, managed by NMDOT Planning, through the TAP/RTP and CMAQ Programs. The Call for Projects was released this past Friday. Active TAP grants in the region include planning and multi-modal improvement projects. Through PowerPoint presentation, Ms. Glendenning commented TAP projects, small or large, are intended for pedestrian and bicycle facilities, safe routes to school and infrastructure improvements. Details are provided in the Guide. Members were provided a hard copy of the Guide.

RTP is intended for motorized and non-motorized recreational trails. Funding comes from a portion of the gas tax that is used for recreation. A table contained within the TAP/RTP Guide is useful and can give local entities an idea of what to apply for. The Coordinator displayed the table and provided examples. Entities that may apply include local and tribal governments, regional transportation authorities, school districts, local education agencies, transit agencies and State/Federal land or natural resource agencies. NMDOT, MPOs, RTPOs, nonprofits and financial high-risk entities are not eligible to apply.

The Coordinator described the project feasibility form process. This process will bring the project to NMDOT, to include the District and possibly Environmental, and will include a scoping process, discussing the project, any stumbling blocks, cost estimate feasibility and issues that may arise. Ms. Glendenning reviewed the application requirements which include the Project Prospectus Form (PPF) and TAP/RTP Application (available online), Resolution of Sponsorship, Letter(s) of Support and a basic map of project location.

Further, the Coordinator explained that it is a competitive process. Each program has a team that rates and ranks the projects. The reimbursement process was described where the entity expends the monies for consultants, materials, etc. and then the entity submits reimbursement to NMDOT. The reimbursement process may be difficult for the smaller entities. The local match requirement is 14.56%. Entities may utilize city crew time, volunteers, donations to in-kind or cash. In this round, projects will be programmed to start in FFYs 2020 or 2021. NMDOT wants to help set communities up for success and described the approach of design designated for specific years with construction to follow. Non-infrastructure projects are handled internally, and entities will have a direct contact with Planning. The TAP/RTP Coordinator's contact information was provided. Estimated funding amounts are 1.4 million for RTP, and percentages were provided for motorized recreation (30%), non-motorized recreation (30%) and diverse uses (40%). There have not been very many applications for motorized, and there may be opportunity for entities in this area. Estimated funding for TAP is 5.6 million.

The CMAQ Program is structured like the TAP/RTP Programs in its processes. Currently, funding amounts are being awaited and should be coming out soon. CMAQ is becoming available for entities statewide and includes NMDOT through the non-mandatory CMAQ funds. She explained that Albuquerque had been in non-attainment for air quality and now is in attainment which opens up the funding. The objective of the funding is to have projects that reduce the number of vehicle trips and/or vehicle miles traveled (VMT), projects that reduce emissions related to traffic congestion and projects that reduce the per mile rate of vehicle emissions through improved vehicle and fuel technologies. Examples of projects were given from the CMAQ table displayed, and entities who may apply were discussed (same as TAP/RTP except NMDOT may apply). The application process is the same as TAP/RTP. Larger projects may be funded. Contact information for Jessica Griffin, NMDOT, was given. Martin Moore (Eunice) inquired if the PowerPoint could be provided to members and if the application package was available. The Coordinator stated that the Guide and funding amounts should be released soon, and presentation would be provided through SERTPO Managers. Ron Sena (Ruidoso) mentioned a project for which the Village already has design and inquired on program deadlines. Most likely, program deadline would be the end of November. Mr. Sena also inquired on Safe Routes to School eligibility and whether joint applications were permitted. Ms. Glendenning responded and clarified Safe School Routes was for K-8 schools. Jolene Herrera (NMDOT) inquired on previous funding amounts for Albuquerque as a guideline. Ms. Glendenning responded previous funding amounts have been approximately \$14 million.

ACTION ITEMS

Resolution #18-002 Approving SERTPO TAP-RTP-CMAQ 2018 Application Deadlines Schedule

Policy Vice-Chairman Martin Moore (Eunice) explained that deadlines are being established through the Resolution and asked members to take note that Project Feasibility Forms (PFFs) are July 2, 2018. He urged members to contact Shannon Glendenning, with her contact information being provided inside the TAP/RTP Guide. Additionally, the dates of the feasibility process, application preparation, final application deadline for SERTPO and final application submission to NMDOT were reviewed. Digital delivery of the applications is allowed. Members were urged to follow the Guide. Louis Najar (Roswell) inquired on July date and form due—PFF is due 7/2/2018. He further inquired on what takes place if the CMAQ Guide is not released by July 2nd. Ms. Burr stated that SERTPO would have to reconsider that date. The Policy Vice-Chair commented that SERTPO would have to discuss with NMDOT on it. Links to obtain application forms are provided on the Schedule. Mary Ann Burr pointed out that once the CMAQ application form is made available, it will be posted online. The PowerPoint that contains the CMAQ table will be furnished to members promptly and a conversation with NMDOT Staff earlier on CMAQ produced a November 30th deadline. Policy Vice-Chairman Martin Moore (Eunice) pointed out the funding amounts for TAP/RTP in the Guide; two PFFs may be submitted for each program; and, for RTP, inquired on the definition of diverse where motorized, non-motorized and diverse uses are listed in the Guide. Ms. Glendenning provided an example and clarified that it is mixed-use trails, not single use.

Louis Najar (Roswell) made a motion to approve Resolution #18-002 Approving SERTPO TAP-RTP-CMAQ 2018 Application Deadlines Schedule. Motion was seconded by Ron Sena (Ruidoso). Motion was approved unanimously.

Resolution #18-003 Approving the SNMEDD & EPCOG FFY 2019-2020 Regional Work Programs (RWPs)

Policy Vice-Chairman Martin Moore explained the purpose of the Regional Work Programs and asked RTPO staff if there were any changes. Mary Ann Burr explained changes of removal of carry-over language from the work program as it no longer applies, changes to the references for federal fiscal years and PIF forms (renamed Project Prospectus Form (PFF), RTIP/RTIPR language and budgeted hours. Vincent Soule stated the most significant change was in budgeted hours and any future changes would be brought before the Committees. With no questions on the Regional Work Programs, Wyatt Duncan (Lovington) made a motion to approve Resolution #18-003, as submitted. Motion was seconded by Louis Najar (Roswell) and approved by unanimous vote.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ROAD FUND (CONTINUING DISCUSSION)

Sigrid Webb (NMDOT) informed members that District 2 has done well financially. District 2 received more funding (\$8,229,000) than any other District in the State. Donna Gililand commented on how the District has been able to close out projects and keep them off the inactive list. Ms. Gililand is the new Roswell Project Supervisor. The new T/LPA Coordinator will be introduced at a future meeting. The District is doing well with Capital Outlay, going into the season of the bond sale. District 2 congratulated local governments for their good work. Ms. Burr mentioned that the continuing discussion topic stemmed from discussion from the previous meeting regarding possibly alternating years for the local governments and increasing funding amounts for larger projects. The minutes from the last meeting may be referred to. There had been mention by NMDOT (Alan Briley) that the District would consider recommendations in resolution form. Ron Sena (Ruidoso) explained why he favored keeping the current system. Policy Vice-Chair Martin Moore commented that some members may not be present, and he would visit with Policy Chair James Williams about including the topic on the next agenda for additional discussion.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

SERTPO Program Managers Update

Mary Ann Burr (SNMEDD) stated she would be happy to answer any questions on the Quarterly Report during or after the meeting. Ms. Burr continued with an update on the Stronger Economies Together (SET) Plan that has been completed. The SENM SET Plan was submitted to the National SET Review Committee who recommended changes. Those changes included acquiring letters of support for the Plan that was developed. The Plan was resubmitted and has received the High Quality Plan (HQP) designation. The Plan is available online at SNMEDD website under *Regional Plans*.

Ms. Burr spoke of the availability of event and related information accessible on the SNMEDD website (*Announcements Page*). Events mentioned included the New Mexico Association of Counties Annual Conference (June 20-22, 2018), the Infrastructure Capital Improvement Plan (ICIP) training in Roswell (June 21, 2018), the CDBG Application Deadline (June 22, 2018), the New Mexico EnergyPlex Conference in Hobbs (June 26, 2018), the Better Utilizing to Leverage Development (BUILD) Transportation Discretionary Grant Application Deadline (July 19, 2018), the New Mexico Municipal League Annual Conference in Roswell (August 29-31, 2018) and the New Mexico Housing Summit in Albuquerque (September 12-14, 2018). Inquiry was made on the location for the ICIP training—it is being held at the ENMU-R Occupational Technology Center (OTC).

Vincent Soule (EPCOG) explained that his quarterly report and meeting packet is available at <http://www.rtpnm.org/>. Mr. Soule was not present at the last SERTPO meeting as he attended the MPO-RTPO Joint Meeting in Albuquerque at MRCOG. The meeting included Multi-Objective Decision Analysis (MODA) training which NMDOT uses for the RTIPR processes. Mr. Soule spoke of upcoming Open Meetings Act trainings in Las Vegas, Las Cruces and Rio Rancho, New Mexico. The Local Technical Assistance Program (LTAP) has a new interim director and trainings are listed at <http://ltap.unm.edu/>. Training on NHI Transportation Performance is scheduled for June 12, 2018, in Santa Fe. The EPCOG Annual Meeting is being on June 13, 2018, in Tucumcari, New Mexico. Mr. Soule attended the New Mexico League of Zoning Officials as a Planning and Zoning Commissioner for Clovis.

Local Project Updates / NMDOT Update

Donna Gililand (NMDOT) provided updates on transportation projects in Clovis, Tularosa, Eddy County, Roswell, Ruidoso and Lovington. Ms. Gililand introduced Las Cruces NMDOT staff, Judith Gallardo and Kim Fetherlin. Ms. Gililand spoke of the possibility of bringing B2GNOW and CPMS training to the region.

Jolene Herrera announced that NMDOT is currently updating its Tribal/Local Public Agency Handbook, which helps local governments get a project through the required processes. The updated handbook is expected to be released in October or November of this year. Once released, training will be held. Ms. Herrera spoke of bringing the T/LPA and LTAP trainings to Roswell. These trainings are usually in Albuquerque and Las Cruces. Methods for the T/LPA trainings are being considered, and the trainings should be held by next Spring.

Member Comments/Issues

Policy Vice-Chair Martin Moore mentioned that the application deadlines have now been approved and the local governments may proceed with TAP-RTP-CMAQ application.

PUBLIC COMMENT

NM Legislator Greg Nibert commented that he has been receiving several phone calls during the past year on restrictions on trucks between Hondo and Ruidoso. The State Police have been pulling over trucks and state that the trucks need to go through Ruidoso. Representative Nibert has asked NMDOT Secretary Church to review whether the length of a truck is a real safety issue for that stretch of US 380. He believes that something the communities need to weigh in on is that as Lincoln County experiences growth, commerce needs to travel on US 380 and not Ruidoso and US 70. He gave an example of State Police pulling over cattle trucks and advising them to go through El Paso, Texas from US 54. This route takes cattle way out of the region's market, and the Legislator felt that communities would want to benefit from some of this economic activity. District 2 will be doing a study of the road. Concerns lie with existing signs, tight turns and trucks over 65'. Legislative action for funding to make needed improvements may be pursued.

MEETING DATE/ADJOURNMENT

Dates were considered for the next meeting. A meeting was scheduled for September 13, 2018 at the Roswell Public Library at 10:00 a.m. Motion was made by Ron Sena (Ruidoso) to adjourn. Motion was seconded by Wyatt Duncan (Lovington), and motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 11:25 am.

APPROVED BY:

Policy Committee Chair/Vice-Chair

Date

ATTESTED BY:

SERTPO Program Manager

Date