

# **Southeast Regional Transportation Planning Organization (SERTPO)**

## **Minutes of the Policy Committee Meeting**

**October 5, 2017 – 10:00 am**

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

### **POLICY MEMBERS PRESENT:**

*Policy Member (or Alternate) listed in Alphabetical Order*

Brito, Candy	City of Eunice
Burns, Marilyn (Mayor)	Town of Tatum
Fury, Dennis	Curry County
Hall, Jubal	Village of Cloudcroft
Najar, Louis	City of Roswell
Patterson, Jeff	City of Carlsbad
Quappe, Steve	Otero County
Reid, Bruce	Lea County
Sainz, Robert (Trustee)	Village of Tularosa
Sena, Ron	Village of Ruidoso
Sikes, Nadia (Commissioner)	City of Alamogordo
West, Joe	Chaves County
Willard, Lynn (Commissioner)	Lincoln County
Williams, Gary (Mayor)	City of Ruidoso Downs

### **POLICY COMMITTEE MEMBERS ABSENT:**

Bunch, Clint	City of Clovis
Burnett, Mickey (Mayor)	Village of Dora
Cooper, Lewis	City of Texico
Creighton, Gene (Commissioner)	Roosevelt County
DeSha, John	City of Portales
Hyatt, Richard (Mayor)	Town of Carrizozo
Powell, Justin	Town of Dexter
Dixon, Durward (Mayor)	Town of Elida
Estrada, Pete (Mayor)	Village of Loving
Gallagher, Bob	City of Jal
Garcia, Roman (Mayor)	Town of Vaughn
Green, Barry (Councilor)	Village of Melrose
Hobson, Aubrey	City of Artesia
Hooper, Wes	Eddy County
Ingram, Justin (Mayor)	Village of Fort Sumner
King, Kris (Mayor)	Village of Causey
LaMay, Jonathan	Village of Capitan
Lucero, Amanda	De Baca County
Pacheco, Freddie	Mescalero Apache Tribe
Powell, Leona	Village of Grady
Randall, Todd	City of Hobbs
Sales, Rudy	Village of Hope
Salazar, Ysidro (Mayor)	Town of Lake Arthur
Wade, Cliff (Mayor)	Town of Hagerman
Weckwerth, Bill (Trustee)	Village of Corona
Whitecotton, Toni	Village of Floyd
Williams, James	City of Lovington

**GUESTS PRESENT:**

Allen, Glenda	City of Roswell
Burns, Jason	City of Carlsbad
Davis, Calvin	Curry County (Technical Committee)
Graham, Dale	City of Ruidoso Downs (Technical Committee)
Gurule, Angelo	Chaves County
Honeycutt, Jeff	Lincoln County (Technical Committee)
Marinovich, Nick	Lea County
Masters, Jimmy	NM Department of Health
Morris, Bill	City of Roswell
Pellegrino-Spear, Lisa	Clovis MainStreet
Porter, Ryan	City of Roswell
Rael, Stella	City of Alamogordo
Storey, David	Souder Miller & Associates (Roswell)
Stubbs, Judy	Roswell Tourism Council

**COG/NMDOT STAFF PRESENT:**

Burr, Mary Ann	Southeastern New Mexico Economic Development District (SNMEDD)/Council of Governments (COG)
Gililand, Donna	NMDOT – Roswell
Sittig, Paul	NMDOT – Santa Fe
Soule, Vincent	Eastern Plains Council of Governments (EPCOG)
Webb, Sigrid	NMDOT – Roswell

**CALL TO ORDER / QUORUM (7)****PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE****INTRODUCTIONS**

Technical Chair Louis Najar (City of Roswell) called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. A quorum was established. Members participated with the Pledge of Allegiance, and introductions were held.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Nadia Sikes (Alamogordo) made a motion to approve the agenda, as presented. Lynn Willard (Lincoln County) seconded the motion. Motion passed by unanimous vote.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Robert Sainz (Tularosa) made a motion to approve the July 27, 2017 minutes. Motion was seconded by Marilyn Burns (Tatum), and motion passed unanimously.

**PRESENTATION:** MainStreet Clovis  
Lisa Pellegrino-Spear, Executive Director

Lisa Pellegrino-Spear informed the group that she serves as Executive Director of Clovis MainStreet as well as President of the New Mexico Coalition of MainStreet Communities. Most of our communities are rural and are in desperate need for economic development and retaining/restoring any economic vitality that is in the heart of our downtowns. If there is no transportation, there is no tourism into the communities. Communities need the tax dollars and public infrastructure to make sure our tourism is a sound opportunity. The Director explained that when economic times are rough as they have been the past two years, there are still creative opportunities for making money and have those economic drivers downtown and through the community. MainStreet is a great opportunity for creating those economic drivers.

New Mexico MainStreet is an organization that is based under the New Mexico Economic Development Department. The theory behind MainStreet is taking those assets that are already in your community and those special features of those assets and utilizing them for economic development. While investment in older buildings may be considered costlier than investing in other parts of the community, not investing into the heart of the community changes the whole community dynamic. Assets include buildings, people, culture and partnerships that already exist.

Currently, there are 27 communities in the NM MainStreet (NMMS) Program. There is also a nationally certified program through the National MainStreet America. NMMS is all about facilitating the skills and tools for the community developers and utilizing all the resources of NMEDD and other divisions of the State. All MainStreet communities report quarterly to the MainStreet Program. These figures are compiled and then reviewed by legislators to see the progress in economic development. In 2012-2016, MainStreet reported 2,673 net new jobs. Ms. Spear explained that while MainStreet seems like a small way to develop jobs in economic development because most people think big scale like manufacturing, large call centers and major corporations that employ 200+ people. Small entrepreneurs add up significantly. Further, there were 612 net new businesses, mostly entrepreneurial businesses, and 896 building rehabilitations. New Mexico MainStreet's main priority is public infrastructure. Currently, NMMS has over \$35 million of public infrastructure projects that are construction-ready. NMMS Capital Outlay appropriations for the last five years were presented. Ms. Spear spoke of their use of a lobbyist and their legislative approach.

Clovis MainStreet (CMS) is certified and follows the four-point system. Ms. Spear spoke of their partnership with Clovis Industrial Development Corporation and mentioned that a community cannot have industrial development without small development too. Investments made into the District were mentioned, to include a new housing development and public-sector improvements such as the new Curry County Administration building and a new City Public Works office. Successful MainStreet projects have included the Streetscape Sidewalk/Curb project, which utilized NMDOT TAP grant funding. Features such as colorful planters and decorative gateway pillars were displayed. CMS has three theaters, all of which are being restored with different ownership. Ms. Spear shared details on funding sources, types of repairs being made and the status for their Lyceum Theater. She also described the development of their Railroad Park Project.

Nadia Sikes (Alamogordo) inquired on ownership and the private sector funding for the Lyceum Theater. Ms. Spear responded that she will acquire and provide the member with the requested breakdown of private sector funding.

**PRESENTATION:** New Mexico Freight Network  
Paul Sittig, Technical and Freight Planning Supervisor  
NMDOT Asset Management & Planning Division

Mr. Sittig informed members that he planned to cover the state freight planning efforts and freight corridors statewide. He provided an overview of how freight regulations and rules have evolved over the years, at the national and state level. Members were reminded of the New Mexico 2040 Plan, which included extensive outreach around the state and was completed in 2015. The New Mexico Freight Plan was completed at that same time. For the southeast region, part of those planning and outreach efforts had included a regional State Freight Plan meeting in Artesia. The current federal legislation, the FAST Act, provides new freight funding, which requires that State DOTs identify such funding in their State Freight Plans. NMDOT has opted to submit addenda to the 2015 New Mexico Freight Plan to bring that plan into compliance with the FAST Act.

As part of the New Mexico 2040 and Freight Plans, a state map of the various freight assets was created. Mr. Sittig displayed the map to members and spoke to the interstates and railroads, mining and dairy production, and how freight moves along the corridors. Interstates are key corridors, particularly I-10 and I-40, but the southeast has robust freight activity as well. The state freight network was compared with the national freight network, to identify where the national network falls short of capturing the active corridors within the state. Mr. Sittig commented on various freight initiatives and a freight study (House Memorial 96), which focused on truck hours of service and the opportunity for New Mexico to capitalize on extended truck parking requirements. He noted that while this study focused on the interstates, particularly I-10 and I-40, the lessons from this report could be applied to other parts of the state with significant freight activity. He continued with discussion on the FAST Act requirement of a fiscally-constrained list of projects and a future update to the Freight Plan.

Louis Najar (Roswell) inquired on the interstates and their commercial traffic and the percentage of traffic (trucks versus cars). Gary Williams (Ruidoso Downs) commented on US 54 being very hazardous. US 54 is one of the focus areas being reviewed for safety funding.

#### **ACTION ITEMS**

##### **TAP/RTP Application Policy**

Louis Najar (Roswell) reminded members of discussion from the previous SERTPO meeting where some entities had been awarded two TAP/RTP projects statewide while this region could only submit one project (per program). The discussion held was to change SERTPO policy to allow each entity to submit two applications per program (TAP and RTP) when there is a call for projects. Motion was made to amend SERTPO Policy allowing two project applications per entity, per program by Lynn Willard (Lincoln County). Motion was seconded by Marilyn Burns (Tatum). Motion passed unanimously.

##### **Roadway Application Due Dates – Call for Projects**

Mary Ann Burr spoke to the processes and due dates provided in a handout given to members (same information was provided in meeting packets). The dates listed followed SERTPO's traditional timelines for application intake, feasibility reviews, final application preparation and distribution of applications to members through meeting packets for the March 2018 meeting. She stressed the application process does provide for a single application for Roadway—one application per entity, based on the funding level that is available. The rating criteria previously approved by SERTPO (October 2016) was also included in the handout. Donna Gililand, NMDOT, spoke to the anticipated funding level expected. Motion was made by Marilyn Burns (Tatum) to approve the Roadway Call-for-Projects Application Due Dates. Motion was seconded by Jubal Hall (Cloudcroft). Motion passed unanimously.

#### **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

##### **SERTPO Program Managers Update**

Mary Ann Burr reminded members that the Roadway Call-for-Projects will start October 16, 2017, and forms will be available online. The next SERTPO meeting is November 15, 2017. She explained how the meeting that includes public transit prioritization had been set back a month due to the NMDOT's conversion to an online system. The new system allows transit providers to submit their public transit applications online, RTP staff to retrieve those applications online and RTP staff to enter finalized

public transit scoring results online. Both SERTPO Program Managers will be participating with a web-based training on the new online system.

Both SNMEDD and EPCOG have been participating with the Stronger Economies Together (SET) regional economic plan. Civic forums were held in Hobbs and Portales in late September. NMDOT participated as well. The next planning session is scheduled for October 19<sup>th</sup> in Roswell. The meeting location for November is to be determined. As a result of the forums, transportation-related strengths included *Rail & Air Service* and *Robust Tourism*. A transportation-related challenge included *Aging Infrastructure*. The opportunities associated with these areas were provided to members.

Vincent Soule explained that he has been redesigning the *rtpnm.org* website. In the northeast, they are experimenting with a different type of public outreach, which involves social media use. Mr. Soule has been working with the North Central Council of Governments with preparations for the RTPO Roundtable meeting, has participated with SET and plans to attend the New Mexico Infrastructure Conference.

### **NMDOT Update**

**NMDOT District T/LPA.** Donna Gililand informed the group that they are in the process of closing projects in Roswell and Carlsbad. Four projects are in design, with projects in Clovis, Tularosa, Eddy County and Roswell planned for construction. Louis Najar (Roswell) thanked NMDOT for the ADA upgrades that they are doing in downtown Roswell.

**NMDOT Local Government.** Sigrid Webb reminded members that LGRF FY16-17 Agreements expire at the end of December. She urged everyone to make sure to wrap up their project by the first or second week in December. For new Agreements, most entities have received their documents but there are some Agreements that are still being processed by Santa Fe Legal. She encouraged members to get their clearances completed while the weather is bad. New applications are anticipated in January. Ms. Webb works with Ms. Gililand with matched money for T/LPA federal projects. She urged members to work with their COG staff to assist with applications.

Regarding Capital Outlay, Ms. Webb reminded members that 5% must be spent within six months of the bond sale. DFA has pulled contracts in the past where the 5% expenditure requirement was not met.

### **MEMBER COMMENTS / ISSUES**

Ron Sena (Ruidoso) asked members if anyone had updated information regarding prevailing wage rates with Workforce Solutions on Public Works projects over \$60k. He explained that it is his understanding with Workforce Solutions that local governments that perform their own construction must use prevailing wage rates on their staff. The Village of Ruidoso does its own chip-seal and paving, and they are expected to do certified payrolls every week. His concerns are that the Village may reach the point of no longer being able to do their own work and hiring an engineer for work the Village had considered maintenance. Dennis Fury (Curry County) stated they have their own system. Sigrid Webb (NMDOT) commented that some entities have been able to manage certified payrolls without much difficulty. Donna Gililand (NMDOT) will follow-up on the matter. Louis Najar (Roswell) added that the wage rate may be going up January 1<sup>st</sup>. Rates were increased approximately two years ago, and he urged members to bid their projects as higher wage rates will increase project costs. There is also the matter of union contracts.

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Louis Najar (Roswell) reminded members that the ADA Transition Plans are due December 2017. Compliance with this requirement will help local governments have continued funding. Mary Ann Burr added that members may wish to review the July minutes where Sally Reeves with NMDOT Construction & Civil Rights Bureau spoke on ADA compliance requirements.

**MEETING DATE/ADJOURNMENT**

The next meeting for SERTPO will be November 15, 2017. Motion was made and seconded for meeting adjournment. Meeting adjourned at 11:25 a.m.

**APPROVED BY:**

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Policy Committee Chair

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Date

**ATTESTED BY:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
SERTPO Program Manager

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Date