

Meeting Minutes
Northeast Regional Planning Organization (NERPO)
The Village of Angel Fire
Community Center-71 Valley Road
Angel Fire, New Mexico
March 18, 2009
10:15 a.m.

Meeting Attendees

NERPO Voting Members and Alternates:

| Name | County | Title | Present/Absent |
|----------------------|-----------------------|---------------|-----------------------|
| Les Montoya | San Miguel County | Voting Member | Present |
| Harold Garcia | San Miguel County | Alternate | Present |
| Carlos A. Ortiz, Jr. | City of Las Vegas | Voting Member | Present |
| Elmer Martinez | City of Las Vegas | Alternate | Absent |
| Miguel Martinez | Mora County | Voting Member | Absent |
| Peter Martinez | Mora County | Alternate | Absent |
| Bill Conley | Colfax County | Voting Member | Present |
| Leo Parker | Colfax County | Alternate | Absent |
| Jennifer Sparaco | City of Raton | Voting Member | Absent |
| Pete Mileta, Jr. | City of Raton | Alternate | Absent |
| Linda Pavletich | Village of Cimarron | Voting Member | Absent |
| Mindy Cahill | Village of Cimarron | Alternate | Absent |
| Chuck Howe | Village of Angel Fire | Voting Member | Present |
| Al Lott | Village of Angel Fire | Alternate | Present |
| Robert Casados | Harding County | Voting Member | Absent |
| Jerry Porterfield | Harding County | Alternate | Present |
| Shawn Jeffrey | Village of Mosquero | Voting Member | Present |
| Ray Vigil | Village of Mosquero | Alternate | Absent |
| June Mahoney | Village of Roy | Voting Member | Absent |
| Marshal Drake | Village of Roy | Alternate | Absent |
| Linda Lavender | Village of House | Voting Member | Absent |
| None | Village of House | Alternate | None |
| Larry Moore | Quay County | Voting Member | Present |
| Richard Primrose | Quay County | Alternate | Present |
| Leo Pacheco | Village of San Jon | Voting Member | Absent |
| Wade Lane | Village of San Jon | Alternate | Absent |
| Doug Powers | City of Tucumcari | Voting Member | Present |
| John Sutherland | City of Tucumcari | Alternate | Absent |
| Ferron Lucero | Town of Clayton | Voting Member | Absent |
| Jimmie Taylor | Town of Clayton | Alternate | Absent |
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|------------------|------------------------|---------------|---------|
| Richard Arguello | Union County | Voting Member | Present |
| Russel Kear | Union County | Alternate | Absent |
| Michelle Morrow | Village of Des Moines | Voting Member | Absent |
| Karen Bray | Village of Des Moines | Alternate | Absent |
| None | Village of Pecos | Voting Member | None |
| None | Village of Pecos | Alternate | None |
| Diane Brown | Village of Folsom | Voting Member | Absent |
| Mike Schoonover | Village of Folsom | Alternate | Absent |
| Mignon Saddoris | Village of Grenville | Voting Member | Absent |
| Lynn Wiseman | Village of Grenville | Alternate | Absent |
| Rose Kelly | Village of Logan | Voting Member | Absent |
| Larry Wallin | Village of Logan | Alternate | Absent |
| Joseph Campos | City of Santa Rosa | Voting Member | Absent |
| Maxine Rivera | City of Santa Rosa | Alternate | Present |
| Manuel Baca | Guadalupe County | Voting Member | Present |
| Yolanda Chavez | Guadalupe County | Alternate | Present |
| Leticia Torres | Town of Springer | Voting Member | Absent |
| Johnny L. Chavez | Town of Springer | Alternate | Absent |
| Billie Odum | Village of Eagle Nest | Voting Member | Present |
| Richard Cordova | Village of Eagle Nest | Alternate | Present |
| Sylvia Olson | Village of Maxwell | Voting Member | Absent |
| None | Village of Maxwell | Alternate | None |
| Benito Armijo | Village of Wagon Mound | Voting Member | Absent |
| Betty Medina | Village of Wagon Mound | Alternate | Present |
| | | | |

NERPO Planner

Lesah R. Sedillo
Steve Henthorn

NCNMEDD
EPCOG

NMDOT Staff

Heather Sandoval
Rick Chavez
Gwyneth Duncan
Jose Ortiz

NMDOT D-4 Assistant District Engineer
NMDOT GRIP 2 Coordinator
NMDOT Environmental Specialist
NMDOT ADA Coordinator

FHWA Staff

Lisa Neie

FHWA

Guests

Gus Cordova, Mercer Group
Deborah May, Village of Angel Fire
Alix King, Village of Wagon Mound
Joe Mahoney, Dennis Engineering Company
Glenn Boone, Village of Angel Fire
Marilyn Nolan, Town of Springer
Linda Perry, Village of Eagle Nest
Donzil Worthington, Wilson & Company

I. Call Meeting to Order

The Meeting was called to order at 10:15 a.m. by Vice-Chairman Richard Arguello. Vice-Chairman Arguello stated that Chairman Casados had family issues and sent his apologies.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Vice-Chairman Richard Arguello.

III. Moment of Silence

Vice-Chairman Arguello asked for a moment of Silence.

IV. Welcome and Introductions:

The welcome was presented by Mr. Chuck Howe, Mayor Pro-Tem/Village of Angel Fire. Mr. Howe thanked everyone for coming and welcomed them to the Village of Angel Fire. Mr. Bill Conley, Commissioner/Colfax County welcomed everyone to the county and reminded everyone about the beautiful New Mexico Vietnam Veterans Memorial State Park!

Individual introductions were conducted by each NERPO member.

V. Approval of the Agenda:

Mr. Bill Conley from Colfax County made the motion to approve the agenda as submitted. Mr. Chuck Howe from the Village of Angel Fire seconded the motion. The motion carried and all voted in favor.

VI. Approval of the Minutes: (February 5, 2009, Harding County, New Mexico)

Mr. Les Montoya, San Miguel County made the motion to approve the minutes as submitted. The motion was seconded by Mr. Bill Conley, Colfax County. The motion carried and all voted in favor.

Mr. Les Montoya then asked why the Village of Pecos does not designate anyone for the NERPO. He stated that Mora County's designation is no longer correct either. Ms. Sedillo stated that the Village of Pecos only participated at one meeting in September of 2006, when Mariana was the planner. However, if you notice that all members receive e-mails from the NERPO, even if they wish not to participate. Ms. Sedillo stated that it is the responsibility of the entity to designate and participate. Vice-Chairman Arguello stated that they are not the only entity that does not participate or designate. It was agreed upon that we would send out the information to the NERPO Members again regarding participation and the Bylaws. Mr. Les Montoya also thanked Ms. Sedillo for keeping all the NERPO Members informed with all the e-mails and beneficial information.

VII. Mr. Jody Ortiz-NMDOT ADA Coordinator and Ms. Lisa Neie, FHWA:

Mr. Jody Ortiz stated that the NMDOT and FHWA are working together on compliance issues in the State of New Mexico. There were mandates issued on compliance under Title II.

Technical Assistance Manual:

This technical assistance manual addresses the requirements of title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act, which applies to the operations of State and local governments. It is one of a series of publications issued by Federal agencies under section 506 of the ADA to assist individuals and entities in understanding their rights and duties under the Act.

This manual is part of a broader program of technical assistance conducted by the Department of Justice to promote voluntary compliance with the requirements not only of title II, but also of title III of the ADA, which applies to public accommodations, commercial facilities, and private entities offering certain examinations and courses.

The NMDOT and FHWA are working together to ask that each entity designate an ADA Coordinator, so that they can train them for a Transition Plan of Compliance. Every entity that has 50 or more employees must designate an ADA Coordinator. The Coordinator serves as the principal planning coordinator for all programs, policies, and procedures relating to compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act. Mr. Ortiz stated that Ms. Sedillo had provided him with a listing of each local government entity within the NERPO. He asked that everyone provide him with their ADA Coordinator or contact information for their entity. He also asked them to note if they were under the 50 employee status.

Ms. Sedillo had a few questions for compliance and training:

- How soon will training be provided for the ADA Coordinators and will these trainings be available through the RPO?**
- Is there some type of criteria for their compliance plan or example? Is there a timeline for the compliance issues?**
- Is there some type of site or compliance inspections anticipated for the State of New Mexico?**

They hope to have everyone's designation by July and then plan the trainings. They do have examples that they will provide to the ADA Coordinators. They do not anticipate any site or compliance inspections at this time.

Ms. Sedillo asked if Mr. Ortiz is available to provide technical assistance to the NERPO Members, we realize that he is one person for the entire state. The members have received a lot of assistance from the Environmental Section and thank Gwyneth for all her help.

He stated that yes, he is only one person, but could be available by e-mail and phone with compliance questions. Members could also send him photos or discuss current projects if they have any concerns. The NERPO Members thanked them for their presentation.

VIII. Discussion and Approval of local lead Economic Recovery Plan (Heather Sandoval/Gwyneth Duncan NMDOT)

Ms. Sedillo stated that she appreciated everyone's understanding with the overwhelming demands with the Economic Recovery Stimulus Plan. She also apologized for the overwhelming amount of information that she has been providing by e-mail. If anyone needs any further assistance or clarification to contact your respective planner.

Ms. Sedillo also stated that at a hearing this week for the House Transportation & Public Works Committee, that the Economic Stimulus led the discussion. The Chair and Committee were very pleased that the projects were being streamed through the RPO Process and that entities were utilizing the planning process for readiness. They hope that the State of New Mexico will utilize all the money effectively and be in line for future funds.

It is extremely important for every local government entity that submitted a project to make sure that they actually meet the project ready requirements. The following projects were ranked and rated into three tiers. Heather provided some questions that assisted in the process.

Definitions of the Tiered System:

Tier I-Shovel Ready projects with all necessary approvals in place.

Tier II-Projects that can meet all necessary requirements within four (4) to six (6) months.

Tier III-Projects that can meet all necessary requirements within six (6) months to twelve (12) months.

Ms. Sedillo stated that Ms. Heather Sandoval will go into detail now with the actual Economic Stimulus Package. (Attached to the minutes) Ms. Sedillo stated that everyone should review what tier their project was placed in and if your project does not fit into that category we need to discuss the details. Ms. Gwyneth Duncan is here to discuss any of the projects in detail with any entity that may have questions as to their readiness regarding environmental issues.

Ms. Heather Sandoval stated that Shovel Ready means all of the clearances are in place and that the entity could bid their project today if they received funding. If the project does not meet the Tier I criteria then it follows the definition of the other two tiers.

Ms. Sandoval discussed each project in detail and all the funding categories with regard to target amounts that the district may receive. TPO-Roadway funds for entities over 5000 in population. TPM-Roadway funds for entities less than 5000 in population. The TPE is for Enhancement Funds. However, we did not receive any bridge funding. You could utilize some of the above funding if the roadway attached to the bridge was Federal Aid eligible.

The Northeast Regional Planning Organization received \$19,718,500.00 in stimulus requests.

However, the following is a breakdown of the anticipated funding:

TPO-\$5,331,300.00

TPM-\$1,435,350.00

TPE-\$1,062,015.00

Ms. Heather Sandoval reviewed the document in great detail with the NERPO Members.

There was one requested change by Mr. Les Montoya, San Miguel County for their Pedestrian Bridge in Montezuma. It was placed as a Tier III project and they are requesting that it be placed as a Tier II. Ms. Sedillo stated that the burden of readiness is upon the local government entity and that the request would be accepted.

However, there is no funding currently for the other Tiers, but may become available at a later time. Ms. Sedillo stated that we will have a regular item on the agenda to review the Stimulus Projects and status.

There were many questions raised regarding the reimbursement process. Mr. Conley asked about the turnaround time for reimbursement. Ms. Heather Sandoval stated that it should be anywhere from 30-45 days. There are no match requirements with the Stimulus Funds.

Mr. Gus Cordova, Mercer Group stated that the state should commit to timely reimbursements to entities, so that everyone could benefit from the funding. Ms. Sandoval stated that it was not up to the state, since we are dealing with Federal funding and sometimes it takes longer than anticipated.

Mr. Les Montoya stated that every entity has a reserve that they are required to carry by DFA, and that's how he floats his projects.

Ms. Alix King asked about loans or other possible ways to utilize reserves for projects. She was advised to request permission from the Department of Finance and Administration. It is difficult for some of the smaller entities, because their reserve is very minimal with limited resources.

Vice-Chairman Arguello stated that if there were no more questions or changes that he would entertain a motion.

Mr. Chuck Howe, Village of Angel Fire made a motion to approve the Economic Stimulus Package as amended for San Miguel County for the Northeast Regional Planning Organization. The motion was seconded by Mr. Carlos Ortiz, City of Las Vegas. The motion carried and all voted in favor.

Lunch was provided by the Village of Angel Fire.

IX. Approval of the RTIPR for the NERPO PIF/Scenic Byways Rating and Ranking:

Ms. Sedillo stated that the Rating and Ranking Sheets for the PIF's and Scenic Byways were distributed and then the available funding was identified in that order. (RTIPR attached to the minutes)

Ms. Heather Sandoval reviewed the RTIPR in detail for the NERPO Members.

These are the projects that were awarded funding:

- **Roadway**

Harding County, NM 39 project programmed in FY12 \$800,000.00 & FY 13 \$800,000.00 of the STIP. NM 456 is programmed to be improved by in house personnel.

- **Bridge**

Projects not programmed in FY10-13 STIP due to fiscal constraints.

- **Enhancement**

Village of Eagle Nest, US 64 Multi-use path project programmed in FY13 for \$500,000.00 of the STIP.

Village of Cimarron, NM 21, Pedestrian facilities project programmed partially in FY 13 for \$328,272.00 of the STIP.

- **Scenic Byways**

(1) Village of Cimarron

(2) City of Santa Rosa

Funding to be announced by the State of New Mexico Tourism Department.

Mr. Les Montoya, San Miguel County made a motion to approve the 2009 RTIPR as submitted and Ranked and Rated by the NERPO Members. Mr. Chuck Howe, Village of Angel Fire seconded the motion. The motion passed and all voted in favor.

XI. District Four Update and the NMDOT Staff-(Mr. Paul Gray, District Four Engineer and Ms. Heather Sandoval, Assistant District Engineer-Engineering):

Ms. Heather Sandoval stated that revenues were lower than anticipated. The NMDOT state wide budget would be reduced by about \$15 Million and District 4 would be reducing their Operating Budget by \$1.5 Million. The LGRF was estimated to be reduced by about 1% this year.

Mr. Bill Conley, Colfax County asked about NM 120. Ms. Sandoval stated that they will bid in two weeks from mile marker 2.8 to 7.0 for this summer.

Mr. Porterfield, Harding County asked again about the match for the LGRF. Ms. Sandoval stated that it is 25/75 for local lead project.

Mr. Rick Chavez gave a new update on the recent approved GRIP 2 projects:

District 4 Projects funded with severance tax during FY 2009 (December 2008) Bond Sale

| | |
|------------|-------------|
| Clayton | \$3,000,000 |
| Eagle Nest | \$2,000,000 |
| Las Vegas | \$1,750,000 |

| District 4 Projects Competing for 2009 funds | | |
|--|--|-------------|
| Harding County | Reconstruction improvements for Trigg Road | \$3,562,615 |

Mr. Rick Chavez stated that the final bond sale will go to the entity that can demonstrate the most readiness. The only project within the District 4 competing for those funds is Harding County. However, with the current economy the GRIP 2 bonds investment was affected and he will keep us informed with their progress. It is crucial that every entity progresses with their projects and completes their reimbursements. (Attached to the minutes is the recent GRIP 2 Report)

XII. Update from the NERPO Planners-Lesah R. Sedillo and Steve Henthorn:

Ms. Sedillo provided the following report:

NERPO Planner Report
By Lesah R. Sedillo
March 18, 2009

General Information:

- *NMDOT Commission Meeting was held in the City of Santa Rosa on February 26, 2009! Special Thank you to the City of Santa Rosa*

for hosting! Chairman Casados did provide a presentation on NM 39.

- The Department of Finance and Administration, Local Government Division (“DFA”) hereby gives notice that DFA will conduct an open public meeting at the Inn and Spa at Loretto, 211 Old Santa Fe Trail, Santa Fe New Mexico 87501, on March 30, 2009 at 8:30 am concerning the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, New Mexico Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG).*
- Please also be advised that the New Mexico Community Development Council (CDBG) will conduct CDBG Application Hearings on March 30-31, 2009 at 9:00 am. The purpose is to allow applicants to brief the Council on the details of applications submitted for FY 2009 CDBG funding. The hearings will be held at the Inn and Spa at Loretto, 211 Old Santa Fe Trail, Santa Fe New Mexico 87501.*
- March 21, 2009, last day of the 60 day session.*
- Please review the N. M. Resource Guide to the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 that was sent out by e-mail.*
- Transit Stimulus Funding-As you may know, the feds are looking for the funds to be obligated in an expedient manner. The funds are being apportioned to us via the FTA Section 5311 program. Final apportionments should come from FTA this week. Section 5311 sub-grantees were informed, by e-mail, of the availability of new funds through the Economic Stimulus Package. We asked them to let us know what capital items they needed for their programs. They sent us their lists, and we received \$32.9M in requests. Our preliminary apportionment from FTA is \$12.25 million. We are working with the Secretary, Governor’s Office and State Transportation Commission to approve the funds and its distribution. Additionally, there is a placeholder for Rural Transit Stimulus funds in the STIP.*

- *Once the distribution and final Transit Funding apportionment is set, we can communicate the list to you.*

TRAINING:

NMLTAP

- *NMLTAP is looking for possible articles for the upcoming issue of the Approach newsletter. We are looking for projects that local and tribal entities have implemented to address specific safety issues. In addition, these clients must be willing to describe their successes and share their results with their counterparts. Please e-mail your experiences to nmltap@state.nm.us and include your name, job title, organization name, contact number, and the best time for us to call.*
- *Please mark your calendars and plan to attend this year's pedestrian workshop to held in Albuquerque entitled "Developing a Pedestrian Safety Action Plan" offered on May 19th and 20th, 2009. This workshop will give you the opportunity to work collaboratively with peers, rethink policies and procedures concerning pedestrian safety and learn how to use proven strategies to reduce pedestrian injury and foster more walkable communities. For more information and to register for this event, please visit <http://hsc.unm.edu/emersed/CIPRE/Events.shtml>*

Mr. Steve Henthorn stated that he had a question for Mr. Rick Chavez. He wanted to know how we could better prepare Harding County and make them more competitive for the GRIP 2 Funding. Mr. Chavez stated that they are in competition with the City of Las Cruces and the City of Albuquerque. They must further their project as far as design or environmental issues. Ms. Sedillo stated that they already have identified their match as in-kind. Mr. Chavez stated that it is up to the entity to decide their priorities. They could try and further their project, but another entity may be ready sooner and receive the funding.

XIII. New Business:

A. General Comments and Announcements from NERPO Members:

Vice-Chairman Richard Arguello thanked everyone for voting his project #2 this year. He did not have a presentation with photos for the Rating and Ranking meeting, but would like to share some photos of NM 456. He described in detail the portion of NM 456 that consists of an unpaved School Bus Route in Union County.

Mr. Les Montoya stated that he was very concerned about a bill that would designate the District Engineer's position exempt! The positions would be subject to appointment by the Cabinet Secretary and would serve at the pleasure of the Governor or Cabinet Secretary. He wanted to know what other members thought about this bill. These positions would then become political and would affect the working relationships with the RPO and the local government entities. Ms. Sedillo stated that everyone in the room realizes how exempt positions impact progress. The District would then have issues just like every local government entity has with their City/County Clerks and City/County Managers.

Ms. Sedillo stated that she could find out the status of bill, but was sure that it had already passed the House. Ms. Heather Sandoval stated that it was HB 794. Ms. Sedillo stated that she would provide everyone the status of the bill and then the members could contact their legislators on their views.

Mr. Bill Conley thanked Ms. Sedillo for all her work at the Legislative Session. He also asked how much time that she had spent there. He asked that everyone give her a round of applause for all her hard work.

They also asked that Ms. Sedillo give them the status of HB 616 regarding PERA and retired individuals returning back to work with other State Agencies.

Harold Garcia, San Miguel County thanked Gwyneth Duncan for the hard work and technical assistance that she provides to all the local governments!

B. Suggested agenda items for upcoming meetings:

Ms. Sedillo reminded everyone to request their presentation topics for future meetings.

C. Meeting Location Amendments

This is the following schedule for the NERPO Meetings:

- **April 2009-Clayton Date to be determined.**
- **May 28, 2009, Village of Wagon Mound HS Board Room**
- **June-City of Santa Rosa and Guadalupe County**

XIV. Adjournment:

Mr. Chuck Howe, Village of Angel Fire made the motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Mr. Carlos Ortiz, City of Las Vegas. The motion carried and all voted in favor.

The meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

