

NERPO Meeting Minutes
Santa Rosa High School, ITV Room
717 3rd Street (NM 91)
Santa Rosa, NM 88435
September 28, 2006

Meeting Attendees:

NERPO Members Present

Richard Gutierrez	City of Santa Rosa
Bobby Casados	Harding County
Doug Powers	City of Tucumcari
Larry Moore	Quay County
Les Montoya	San Miguel County
Harold Garcia	San Miguel County
Hoot Gibson	Village of Angel Fire
Gary McQueary	Colfax County
Johnny Chavez	Town of Springer
Leticia Torres	Town of Springer
Kristine Duran	Town of Springer
Renee Hayoz	Village of Roy
Shawn Jeffrey	Village of Mosquero
Leo Pacheco	Village of San Jon
Tony Roybal	Village of Pecos

NERPO Members Not Present:

Carlos Ortiz, Jr.	City of Las Vegas
Fred Sparks	City of Raton
Richard Arguello	Union County
Linda Pavletich	Village of Cimarron
Mike Running	Town of Clayton
Benito Armijo	Village of Wagon Mound
Manuel Baca	Guadalupe County
Neva Hascall	Village of Eagle Nest
Nora Like	Village of Folsom
Martin Sherman	Village of House
Anthony Mitchell	Village of Maxwell
Mignon Saddoris	Village of Grenville
Frank Trujillo	Mora County
Larry Wallin	Village of Logan
Jess Yeargain	Village of Des Moines

NERPO Planners

Mariana Padilla	NCNMEDD
Chris Pacheco	EPCOG

NM DOT Staff

Dennis Peralta	NMDOT D-4
Heather Sandoval	NMDOT D-4
Christina Romero	NMDOT D-4
Janet Spivey	NMDOT, Planning
Roy Cornelius	NMDOT, Planning
Lee Cabeza de Vaca	NMDOT, LTAP
Benny Martinez	NMDOT, G.O. North Region
Rick Chavez	NMDOT, G.O. North Region

- I. Call to Order 10:15 am
- II. Pledge of Allegiance
- III. Welcome & Introductions
Welcome provided by Santa Rosa City Manager Tim Dodge
- IV. Approval of Agenda
 - a. Agenda amendment: Dennis Peralta D-4 ADE will be providing the update for Paul Gray. Dennis arrived late and requested to have the District 4 update moved until after lunch. The presentation of the plaques to previous NERPO Chair and Vice-Chair Doug Powers and Carlos Ortiz was postponed until next meeting. Motion to approve the agenda with amendments was made by Les Montoya, and was seconded by Doug Powers. Motion passed unanimously
- V. Approval of Minutes
 - a. Motion for approval was made by Hoot Gibson and seconded by Larry Moore. Motion passed unanimously.
- VI. The plaque presentations to Chairman Doug Powers and Vice-Chair Carlos Ortiz in appreciation for their service to NERPO, was postponed until the next meeting due to the plaques not being completed in time.
- VII. Updates from RPO Planners
Chris Pacheco – Transit applications are in and there was only one from his area from Golden Spread. Ports to Plains update - There are three projects on the GRIP list; a four lane project on US 64/87 between Raton and Clayton has been let, there will be a total of seven projects. The final project will be completed by 2010. He stated that Paul Gray is trying to move that date up. TXDOT is working on a four lane project on US 87 between the state line and Dumas, TX which will run all the way through the corridor. Christina Romero pointed out that the Ports to Plains Conference will be held in Lubbock on the October 11th. GRIP 2 updates – Chris stated that most changes were to project wording and not funding amount. GRIP 2 was further discussed later in the meeting.

Richard mentioned that he and Doug have talked about creating a NERPO handbook that can be given to new members to help define the transportation acronyms that are used as well as explain how the funding works. This is meant to inform new entities of the process and functions of NERPO. He stated that members also have the planners that help tremendously with submitting projects. Mariana stated that the planners have NERPO brochures that explain the RPO planning and funding process in addition to the NERPO website which is www.nerpo.com. She stated that a handbook or manual is a great idea and it is something that the planners can work on. She stated that in addition the planners can meet with the local governments at any time to work with them to bring them up to speed on NEPRO and the funding application process.

Mariana – Thomas Martinez of NMDOT D-4 provided a LGRF funding spreadsheet. The spreadsheet shows all entities that have not yet returned their contracts to him. Mariana will inform entities individually at the meeting as to their status. Thomas also wants to remind entities that currently have projects open to either close them out or request an extension as soon as possible.

An Officers Meeting was held in Tucumcari September 15th in which the planners met with Doug and our two new officers Richard and Bobby. Discussed were potential changes they would like to see for NERPO. FTA 5311 applications - NERPO had a total of four applications including Angel Fire Transit, Las Vegas Meadow City Express, Golden Spread in Clayton, and a new application from Mora County. These applications will be presented at our November meeting. The grant applications will be handed out to members at our October meeting for their review. Mariana stated that she received a request from the Transit and Rail Bureau to hold our November meeting in Las Vegas. The City of Las Vegas, San Miguel County and District 4 have agreed to host this meeting.

The LTAP update was given by Lee Cabeza de Vaca. There will be a Drainage and Culverts class on Oct 24th in Eunice. Bicycle Facility Design Workshop will be held in Santa Fe and also in Las Cruces. LTAP is also bringing in a class on planning for freight. Scott is still doing on-site training of heavy equipment. He encouraged members to send in your surveys. Lee also gave out Snow Fighting Guidebooks to members. If there is any particular training members would like, please inform the planners or Lee so that it can be set up. Les Montoya asked about GIS training. Lee stated that these trainings are held through the County Treasurer's Office and that LTAP has had three GIS classes so far. NM Walk to School Day is coming up October 4th. Christina from D-4 made an announcement on the D-4 Walk to School event in Las Vegas in which over 200 kids will be walking to school. In addition the Mayor has created a proclamation in support of this day. It will be a huge event with lots of media attention and participation. She stated that the event will be extending throughout the District next year. Jessica Frost the new

NMDOT Safe Routes to School Coordinator is working with all the NMDOT Public Information Officer's. The event website is www.walktoschool.org

NCNMEDD is holding their full board meeting on Saturday, October 14th at 10 am at the College of Santa Fe Campus in the Forum. NCNMEDD board president Nick Salazar will be hosting a panel discussion on regional strategies to bring in more federal funding for economic development. Featured panelists include two of our NERPO members; PJ Mileta City of Raton Manager and Les Montoya, San Miguel County Manager.

- VIII. District Engineer's Update – Dennis Peralta (moved until after lunch)
- District 4 has been holding meetings with entities regarding GRIP 2 projects to discuss potential project changes, project readiness and matching funds sources. If the Bill is passed, beginning in March D-4 will be on fast track in rolling out the projects. STIP targets have been revised one more time due to the District over spending in FY 2006. D-4 has had to reprioritize some of their projects for funding. There are many projects that have been moved to later years. Projects underway include; Santa Rosa south of I-25 from mm 23.8 – 42. Tucumcari has a sidewalk job starting this December which was left out of a current job. Maintenance has a cutler job on NM 91 and other projects on US 64 near Cimarron coming out shortly. Paul Gray will be attending a conference tomorrow in Alamogordo for Spirit of 54. He will provide an update at the next NERPO meeting. Richard Gutierrez asked about turn around of contracts for GRIP 2. Dennis stated that the roll out of projects is determined by project readiness and that contracts will be executed as quickly as possible. The contract execution date is significant for local match. There was discussion as to whether or not the execution date will be the date the GRIP 2 Bill is signed by the Governor.
- IX. NMDOT Long Range Planning Process – Roy Cornelius, NMDOT Planning
- Roy coordinates the LRTP process for NMDOT which is updated every four years. He stated that we are currently in the process of updating the plan again. The LRTP is required by federal statute and looks at transportation throughout the state. The STIP must also be consistent with the LRTP, which is required for federal funding. The seven RPO's each develop their own plan which makes up the state's LRTP. Richard Gutierrez mentioned that rail is very important for economic development initiatives and employment in NERPO communities and therefore is important that it is sustained in the region. Roy stated that the Multimodal Study has looked at passenger rail and that they are just now looking at freight rail. All rail regulation and funding is done directly with the federal government. Mariana stated that rail and aviation as well as other multimodal transportation areas need to be reflected in our plan. Roy

mentioned that it is important to inventory what transportation networks currently exists in D-4. Les stated that in NE it is important to also look at rail transportation of goods and not just passenger and that this needs to be in our LRTP especially now as NMDOT has taken over ownership of rail line in NE in addition to the need to connect existing rail spurs. Les stated that San Miguel County is working on a wood cluster industrial park, and having access to rail would be critical to the success of the development. Furthermore, the regional concept of landfills could greatly benefit from rail moving solid waste more cost effectively for communities. Bobby stated that Harding County has completed their aviation study but has been told that there isn't currently funding available to make improvements to their airport. They are the only county that currently doesn't have an airport. Richard stated that the Santa Rosa airport provides for emergency and evacuation flights for accidents and also flights for contractors working on for projects that are occurring in the area. This use of their airport is a huge boost to their economy. Members requested a presentation from the NMDOT Transit and Rail Bureau on Rail and also a presentation on aviation for a later NERPO meeting.

- X. NERPO's Long Range Transportation Plan – Mariana Padilla
Mariana summarized what the current NERPO LRTP includes and also the tasks that need to be completed in updating our plan. Each of the sections were overviewed including county profiles, community input program, NERPO goals and objectives, transportation priorities and implementation plan. Also overviewed was the citizen conference process facilitated by UNM that targeted specific groups within the region as well as the NERPO subcommittee that worked on the plan. She stated that it is important to use data to inform our planning efforts. Tasks include updating the county profiles, submit our public input program, mission, vision, regional values and goals, review of data provided by D-4 (STIP projects, Traffic AADT, crash data, public transportation, State Registered cultural properties, and GRIP), and also HERS-ST economic modeling program. Mariana outlined the proposed public input program for NERPO member approval including (individual meetings with elected officials in each entity, open house public meetings, mailing out the LRTP). Doug suggested that in addition to individual community meetings to also hold county meetings with all entities within the county to meet together to discuss transportation priorities and concerns. Les Montoya made a motion to approve the proposed public input program and was seconded by Larry Moore. Motion passed unanimously.

Benny Martinez and Rick Chavez from the NMDOT North Region Design Office out of the G.O. explained the local government assistance program. Benny stated that they will be assisting the local governments to make sure that during the design process all steps are met for project development once the funding is authorized. This assistance pertains to

LGRF and STIP projects and they will work as oversight for all funding. Secretary Faught has requested that this program be reinstated once again. The North Region Design Office will be holding a workshop on October 24th to better define the roles as to how this is carried out. Their office will work directly with District 4 on all transportation projects.

Lunch – Provided by the City of Santa Rosa and Guadalupe County

XI. GRIP 2

Chris Pacheco and Mariana Padilla presented their GRIP 2 project lists including the proposed contingency plan. NERPO members reviewed the lists and pointed out items that needed to be corrected on Chris' list. Chris indicated that both the Village of Mosquero and Village of Roy were making changes to their project amounts but had not yet calculated the exact amount to be reduced.

Once the planners received confirmation from the Village of Mosquero that they were going to reduce their project and the dollar amount of the remaining funding was determined, a conference call will be arranged between NERPO planners, chairs and entities submitting contingency projects (Union County, Quay County, and the City of Tulumcari) in order to identify the project that is to be added to the NERPO GRIP 2 list. These individuals were given the direction to select the project off the approved contingency list to fit the remaining available GRIP 2 funding amount by NERPO members. Mariana requested that the Village of Mosquero pass a resolution that identifies their GRIP 2 project specifying the reduction of project cost. A motion to approve the contingency list with the three projects as presented in order for NERPO planners, chairs, and the three entities to meet Friday, September 29th to insert a project onto the GRIP 2 list. The motion was made by Doug Powers and was seconded by Leo Pacheco. Motion passed unanimously. Approval of the GRIP 2 list with the corrections as outlined at the meeting was made by Les Montoya and was seconded by Hoot Gibson. Motion passed unanimously.

GRIP 2 Legislative Committee – NERPO members discussed the possibility of developing a NERPO legislative committee as well as hosting a NERPO legislative gathering to urge legislators' support of the GRIP 2 Bill. Members decided to form a NERPO Legislative Committee which would be responsible for attending legislative hearings to voice NERPO's support of GRIP 2. Volunteers for the Legislative Committee are Hoot Gibson, Richard Gutierrez, Bobby Casados, Les Montoya, Harold Garcia, and Doug Powers. Mariana will track the committee meeting schedule and inform members of the schedule; in addition the Municipal League and Association of Counties also track legislation which can be found online. All NERPO entities are also encouraged to pass resolutions in support of GRIP 2. In addition, a NERPO resolution in support of GRIP 2 will be passed. Individual members are also encouraged

to personally approach their legislators about supporting GRIP 2. Also discussed was NERPO participating in the NMDOT Day at the State Legislature and the possibility of sharing a booth with District 4.

- XII. New Business –
- a. General Comments and Announcements by NERPO members – Doug and Les requested that NERPO members receive a presentation from NMDOT regarding funding for aviation and rail.
Members gave Doug Powers a round of applause in appreciation for his service as Chair.
 - b. Selection of NERPO meetings for next quarter –
 - i. October 31st in Roy hosted by Harding County
 - ii. November 30th in Las Vegas hosted by City of Las Vegas, San Miguel County and District 4
 - iii. No meeting in December unless later determined necessary
 - iv. January 25th in Santa Fe hosted by NCNMEDD
- Motion to approve the meeting schedule was made by Hoot Gibson and seconded by Renee Hayoz. Motion passed unanimously.
- XIII. Meeting adjournment – Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Hoot Gibson and was seconded by Shawn Jeffrey. Motion passed unanimously.