**Meeting Minutes [DRAFT]**

Northern Pueblos Regional Transportation Planning Organization (NPRTPO)

Regular meeting hostedonline and in-person at May 1, 2024 by the North Central Regional Transit District, Jim West Regional Transit Center, 1327 N. Riverside Dr., Espanola, NM 87532

**NPRTPO Voting Members and Alternates**

Name Entity Title Present/Absent

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Eric Ulibarri | Los Alamos County | Voting Member | Present |
| Keith Wilson | Los Alamos County | Alternate | Present |
| Dennis Gallegos | Rio Arriba County | Voting Member | Present |
| Christine Bustos | Rio Arriba County | Alternate | Present |
| Gary Brett Clavio | Santa Fe County | Voting Member | Present |
| Ben Bachwiritz-Lopez | Santa Fe County | Alternate | Absent |
|  | Taos County | Voting Member | Absent |
| Jason Silva | Taos County | Alternate | Present |
| Elijah Mares | City of Española | Voting Member | Present |
| Daniel Fresquez | City of Española | Alternate | Absent |
| Patrick Nicholson | Village of Taos Ski Valley | Voting Member | Absent |
| Anthony Martinez | Village of Taos Ski Valley | Alternate | Absent |
| John Avila | Village of Taos Ski Valley | Alternate | Absent |
| French Espinoza | Town of Taos | Voting Member | Present |
|  | Town of Taos | Alternate | Absent |
| Linda Calhoun | Town of Red River | Voting Member | Present |
| Georgiana Rael | Town of Red River | Alternate | Present |
| Maggie Valdez | Village of Chama | Voting Member | Absent |
| Will Donohoe | Village of Chama | Alternate | Absent |
| Jacob LaFore | Village of Questa | Voting Member | Present |
| Valerie Vigil | Village of Questa | Alternate | Present |
| Paul Castillo | Jicarilla Apache Nation | Voting Member | Absent |
| Kathryn Valdez | Jicarilla Apache Nation | Alternate | Absent |
| John Vigil | Pueblo of Nambé | Voting Member | Present |
| Governor Porter | Pueblo of Nambé | Alternate | Absent |
| Sylvia Armijo | Picuris Pueblo | Voting Member | Present |
|  | Picuris Pueblo | Alternate | Absent |
| Raymond Martinez | Pueblo of San Ildefonso | Voting Member | Present |
| Adam Martinez | Pueblo of San Ildefonso | Alternate | Absent |
| Benny Lujan | Ohkay Owingeh | Voting Member | Absent |
| Lucia Sanchez | Ohkay Owingeh | Alternate | Present |
| Suzette Shije (Vice Chair) | Pueblo of Santa Clara | Voting Member | Present |
|  | Pueblo of Santa Clara | Alternate | Absent |
| Vernon Lujan (Chair) | Pueblo of Taos | Voting Member | Arrived Late |
| Reva Suazo | Pueblo of Taos | Alternate | Present |
| Randy Vigil | Pueblo of Pojoaque | Voting Member | Absent |
| Janay Chavarria | Pueblo of Pojoaque | Alternate | Absent |
| Anthony Mortillaro | NCRTD | Voting Member | Absent |
| Bryce Gibson | NCRTD | Alternate | Present |

**NCNMEDD Staff**

Patrick Million Transportation Planner

Felicity Fonseca Community Development Director

**NMDOT Staff and Federal Partners**

Amanda Niño NMDOT District 5 LGRF Coordinator

James Mexia NMDOT District 5 PDE

Shannon Glendenning NMDOT Programs Unit Supervisor

Ron Shutiva NMDOT Tribal Liaison

**Guests**

Enchanted Circle Trails Member of public/observer

Justin Gibson Los Alamos County

**I. Call Meeting to Order**

Vice Chair Suzette Shije, Santa Clara Pueblo, called the meeting to order at 10:07AM

**II. Pledge of Allegiance**

Vice Chair Suzette Shije led the pledge of allegiance.

**III. Opening Prayer**

Vice Chair Suzette Shije, led a moment of prayer and asked that everyone pray in their own way. She wished well to the presenters and noted that everyone was acting in the best interest of their communities.

**IV. Welcome and Introductions/Public Comments:**

Vice Chair Shije asked if there were any public comments. Hearing none, she moved on.

**V. Roll Call:**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Name** | **Entity** | **Voting Member or Alternate** |
| Eric Ulibarri | Los Alamos County | Alternate |
| Dennis Gallegos | Rio Arriba County | Voting member |
| Jason Silva | Taos County | Alternate |
| Brett Clavio | Santa Fe County | Voting Member |
| Elijah Mares | City of Espanola | Voting member |
| Vernon Lujan | Taos Pueblo | Voting member |
| John Vigil | Pueblo of Nambé | Voting Member |
| Suzette Shije, Vice Chair | Pueblo of Santa Clara | Voting Member |
| Raymond Martinez | Pueblo of San Ildefnso | Voting Member |
| Jacob LaFore | Village of Questa | Voting Member |
| Georgianna Rael | Town of Red River | Alternate |
| French Espinoza | Town of Taos | Voting Member |
| Sylvia Armijo | Picuris Pueblo | Voting Member |
| Bryce Gibson | NCRTD | Alternate |

Patrick Million confirmed that there was a quorum for the meeting.

**VI. Approval of the Agenda:**

Vice Chair Shije asked if there was a motion to approve the May 1 agenda. Jason Silva of Taos County motioned to approve. The motion was seconded by Elijah Mares, Espanola.

Felicity Fonseca (NCNMEDD) asked if Reza Suazo was attending online, referring to the “Reza” on the screen. She confirmed her identity and it was determined that she was an alternate member of the Taos Pueblo who could vote. Chair Lujan arrived at this point to serve as the voting member. Roll call resulted in the approval of the May 1, 2024 agenda.

**VII. Approval of the Minutes: March 6, and April 3 Regular Meeting**

Vice Chair Shije asked if there was a motion to approve the March 6, 2024 minutes. Dennis Gallegos of Rio Arriba motioned. John Vigil of Pueblo of Nambe seconded. Roll call resulted in the approval of the minutes with Los Alamos County abstaining from the vote.

Vice Chair Shije asked for a motion to approve the minutes of April 3, 2024. Taos County made a motion to approve the minutes. Village of Questa seconded. Roll call resulted in the approval of the April 3, 2024 minutes.

**VIII. Federal Agency Updates**

No Federal Agency representatives present.

**IX. State Agency Updates**

Amanda Niño, NMDOT District 5 reported that at present the main report is TPFs. They have returned several PFFs with comments, requesting corrections.

LGRFs, MAP, TPFs capital outlay reimbursement requests need to be submitted before they expire June 30th 2024.

Shannon Glendenning, Planning Bureau NMDOT had updates:

* Department of Justice is offering free trainings on the Open Meetings Act and Inspection of Public Records Act.
* There are good LTAP trainings coming which are managed by the University of New Mexico.
* Safe Routes to School is developing a summit June 3, 2024 in Albuquerque.
* May is bicycle safety month. Los Alamos and other communities are planning events.

Ron Shutiva, NMDOT Tribal Liaison had one announcement: The Office of Indian Affairs is having the annual State Tribal Leaders Summit, June 18th at the Navajo Preparatory School in Farmington. More information available at Office of Indian Affairs. He urged everyone to keep up with their reporting on their projects.

At this point Vice Chair Shije turned the meeting over to Chair Lujan

**XIII. NPRTPO Planner/Program Manager Updates and Announcements**

Patrick Million had some updates:

* The Santa Fe Trails presentation in the last meeting resulted in unanimous high marks for their project.
* The letters of support that were requested by NCRTD were provided to NCRTD. Million thanked Jason Silva of Taos County for citing the Open Meetings Act and helping find a legal solution to an agenda issue.
* NCNMEDD has contacted Shanna Sasser of the DFA regarding the HB177/matching funds opportunity. Million will pass along information on this issue as soon as he has it.

Felicity Fonseca added that NCNMEDD is strongly considering pursuing a Safe Streets and Roads For All Safety Action Plan Grant on behalf of our whole region. This is federal funding to produce a safety action plan and possible demonstration projects. Entities in the NPRTPO could use the safety plan to pursue other opportunities.

Patrick Million, NCNMEDD added that smaller municipalities would be under the umbrella of this effort but could then move on and use the action plan to pursue individual efforts.

* Bret Clavio with Santa Fe County expressed interest and has a Safety subcommittee and would assist. He is very interested in getting the results of a safety action plan.
* Anna Brunson, NCRTD suggested a group call and said NCRTD is interested in this opportunity.
* Vernon Lujan, Taos Pueblo said it was a great idea.
* Jason Silva, Taos County applauds NCNMEDD and said it would be in the best interest of all local governments.
* French Espinoza of the Town of Taos expressed support for the grant effort as well and suggested in lieu of several letters of support, all the members vote on it.

Chair Lujan suggested a member make a motion to support NCNMEDD pursuing the Safe Streets and Roads for All Safety Action Plan grant. Bret Clavio of Santa Fe motioned. French Espinoza of the Town of Taos seconded. Roll call resulted in the NPRTPO membership supporting the effort of NCNMEDD to pursue the SS4A grant on behalf of the region.

Vice Chair Shije requested that Felicity give an overview of the project for the next meeting.

**IX. Rating and Ranking Presentations:**

Patrick Million, NCNMEDD, stated the order of presentations would be according to the agenda and that the podium would be used for presentations.

1. Justin Gibson, Los Alamos County, presented the Denver Steeles project. Construction funding. Request: $2.9 million

Q&A: Vice Chair Shije asked what was the total length. Gibson: ¾ of a mile. Felicity Fonseca asked how much the request was for. Gibson answered $2.9 million. Jason Silva of Taos County asked if these arterial routes would be part of the capital improvement plan& are all of the gutters going to be replaced or just on a need basis. Gibson: replacement will be targeted. This will result in a majority of curb and gutter and sidewalk paths.

1. Anna Brunson, NCRTD, presented on the Chama Maintenance Facility project. Land Acquisition, design and construction. Request:$712,500

Q&A:Vice Chair Shije asked if NCRTD does not receive request, what is the alternative. Bryce Gibson: they would continue to pursue funding. Bret Clavio asked if they were expanding service. Gibson: NCRTD is expanding. They want to do on demand ride share for the village. Jason Silva of Taos County asked how many jobs might be available as a result of the project. Anna Brunson did not have numbers in front of her. She’d have the span of the region and share the numbers with Patrick Million. Silva asked how many people would be using this on a daily basis. Gibson: this would affect citizens of Chama and enable them to reinvest transportation money in other areas. Anna Brunson added that more access will add quality of life. She also cited that drivers work 6-7 hours without a restroom break and this project will add a basic human dignity.

Felicity Fonseca, NCNMEDD, asked how much total funding is available. Amanda Niño, NMDOT, responded they were not entirely sure of the final allotment. James Mexia, NMDOT, gave it a ballpark of $10,000,000-ish.

Jason Silva, Taos County, asked for a point of clarification regarding the order of presentations as it relates to the online form. They were not in the same order. Felicity Fonseca suggested a change in the order of the presentations. This suggestion was agreed upon. As a result the Village of Questa presented next.

1. Valerie Vigil, Village of Questa, presented on both projects: Embargo Rd and Cabresto Rd. Road improvement and repaving. Request: Cabresto-$902,270.85, Embargo-$2,688,437.48

Q&A:None

1. Bret Clavio, Maria Molina, Santa Fe County presented Oweengeh Rd. Corridor Replacement of 6 low water crossings. Request:$9.8 million

Q&A: Felicity Fonseca, NCNMDEE clarified the request amount. She suggested the Rural Surface Transportation funding. Chair Lujan asked if San Ildefonso is collaborating. Miss Molina confirmed that the pueblos have been contacted and Santa Fe County desires to work with them. Mr. Clavio mentioned one of the low water crossings crosses the Tesuque river and there is more room to collaborate. Eric Ulibarri asked about FEMA and if SFCo has talked to them. And do they require a match waiver. Maria Molina said they do not require a match waiver. Felicity Fonseca clarified that it was CR84 or Oweengeh Rd. Corridor. Patrick Million clarified that there are no bridges in the project.

1. Joe Fernandez, Taos County, presented on Blueberry Hill Rd. Project: resurfacing road 4.7 miles. Request: $3,368,219

Q&A: Jason Silva, Taos County, reaffirmed that Taos County was ranked #1 in 2023 and did not receive funding. They’ve made an effort to improve the request. Anthony Martinez of Red River asked about the location and right of way. Joe Fernandez assured members that they have the right of way and that the project would be comprehensive.

1. Vernon Lujan, Taos Pueblo, presented on Spider Rock Rd. Project, resurfacing pivotal road in Pueblo. Request: $2,304,669

Q&A: Bret Clavio, Santa Fe County asked if the federal funding would be a problem. Vernon Lujan responded that he hopes it’s not an issue.

1. Anthony Martinez, Red River, presented on the High Street Improvement Project. Resurfacing and improvements to Red River Main Street. Request: $2,375,000

Q&A: Christine Bustos, Rio Arriba County asked about the total. Martinez confirmed the $2.5 million was including the match.

Felicity Fonseca pointed out that there was an extra question on the scoring sheet regarding the timeliness of submissions. Chair Lujan opened the floor to discussion:

Sylvia Armijo, Picuris Pueblo, urged NPRTPO to set a hard deadline. She’s been coming to meetings for 11 years and it is an unresolved issue.

Christine Bustos, Rio Arriba, acknowledged that Rio Arriba was one of the ones that were late. She stated the training was just last week. She appreciates the NMDOT allowing them to get in.

Dennis Gallegos, Rio Arriba, said he had gotten emails that were confusing, stating that the deadline May 31st.

Patrick Million, NCNMEDD stated that they did not want to call late arrivals out but rather advocate for those who turned in on time. The wording in the question was straight from the PFF.

Jason Silva, Taos County, said it’s not about not supporting each other. The system is flawed as it relates to being ranked 1st and not receiving funding.

Eric Ulibarri, Los Alamos, said he appreciated the conversation.

Amanda Niño, NMDOT, stated that NMDOT has a hard deadline, she thanked everyone for editing their projects and said they want to see everyone get their ask.

Felicity Fonseca suggested to get projects on the RTIPR.

Eric Ulibarri, Los Alamos pointed out that the question was hard to answer.

Patrick Million agreed and said at least the question sparked a dialogue.

James Mexia, NMDOT, stated he wasn’t sure there was a need to make it a part of the rating process. Internally NMDOT has further criteria.

Bret Clavio, Santa Fe County, said he interpreted the question to cover responsibility with grants.

Justin Gibson said that all projects advanced in the Mid Region RTPO and stated that another barrier might not be helpful.

Vice Chair Shije suggested that a soft deadline would continue this discussion. She cited previous minutes of everyone being reminded of a deadline.

James Mexia said that it is the decision of NPRTPO to set the initial deadline.

Further conversation resulted in striking the question.

1. Dennis Gallegos, Rio Arriba, gave his presentation on Monero Canyon. Project: fixing low water crossings. Request: $190,000

Q&A: Jason Silva, Taos County asked about the cost and design and expressed an interest in talking offline. Vice Chair Shije asked about the cost. Christine Bustos pointed out that the resolution was already passed.

1. French Espinoza, Town of Taos, presented on Camino del Medio. Project: resurfacing and adding bicycle infrastructure. Request: $2,033,749.05

Q&A: Jason Silva, Taos County asked how they would address terrain challenges. French Espinoza explained they would use stronger materials under base coarse.

There was a final discussion of the first question of the rating sheet. This resulted in confirming the first question would be struck and a new rating form would be sent out the same day, May 1, 2024. The new form would be due by May 3, 2024.

**X. New Business**

Next meetings:

**June 5, 2024**- Santa Fe County-Sante Fe, NM.

**July 10, 2024-**NCNMEDD (tentative)

Christine Bustos mentioned Rio Arriba is trying to bring a Costco to the area and requested support.

Gary Clavio mentioned there is a water policy committee starting and he would be following up with more information.

**XV. Adjourn**

Bryce Gibson, NCRTD, moved to adjourn the meeting**.**

It was seconded by Christine Bustos, Rio Arriba.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:57PM.