



# Northwest RTPO

**NORTHWEST NEW MEXICO REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION**

designated by the NM Department of Transportation and administered by the Northwest NM Council of Governments

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*administered by*

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DAVE DEUTSAWE, RTPO COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN  
EVAN WILLIAMS, NWNMCOG EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

MAY 27, 2020

To Whom it May Concern:

This is to verify the support from the Northwest New Mexico Regional Transportation Planning Organization (NWRTPO), and the N.W.N.M. Council of Governments (NWNMCOG) on behalf of the Pueblo of Acoma for their ongoing Construction Management / General Contractor (CMGC) project development process, which expedites cost and time efficiency for developing multiple transportation infrastructure projects in the time it takes most local governments to develop just one project.

Secondly – yet of greater significance, since the BNSF Rail line runs right thru the middle of Pueblo of Acoma lands, the NWRTPO and NWNMCOG supports the Pueblo of Acoma’s applications for their Mesa Hill Bridge project. Presently, the rail line often blocks traffic access going north or south within Pueblo lands – often for extended periods of time. This is a serious problem when it comes to emergency access to the Pueblo’s – or other regional hospital services. It would seem to be in the best interests of the BNSF Rail lines to support this bridge project, to prevent potential lawsuits around the loss of life in emergency situations where the train prevented access to emergency services. The Pueblo has submitted multiple applications to federal funding sources for big / expensive projects in past years and has yet to receive funding for the Mesa Hill Bridge project. Bearing this in mind, the NWRTPO and the NWNMCOG will continue to extend our support for this important project (now estimated at \$30 million, and the price goes up every year) providing a more efficient access opportunity for Pueblo residents, and more importantly providing critical emergency access to the Pueblo’s hospital.

The consideration toward funding these projects from any state and/or federal sources on behalf of the Pueblo of Acoma, has the strong and continuing support and appreciation from the NWNMCOG and the NWRTPO.

Respectfully,

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REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLANNING FOR NORTHWEST NEW MEXICO

Cibola County  
San Juan County

McKinley County  
City of Gallup

City of Grants  
Village of Milan

Navajo Nation  
Pueblo of Zuni

Pueblo of Acoma  
Pueblo of Laguna