

# CONNECTING THE DOTS

NEWSLETTER



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# A SNAPSHOT OF THE SESSION



## *Focused on: Budget Gap*

The State of New Mexico found itself in the throes of fixing a historic structural deficit, which included shoring up our current fiscal year to pay their bills. The approach working with both the Executive and Legislative branches was to find reserves and cash balances that can be used to carry us through June.

New Mexico lawmakers worked hard in the beginning days of the Session to develop a compromise on a solvency package designed to fix a severe state budget deficit and restore reserves.

The Solvency Package included four proposals to close this gap and stabilize reserves. Over the last couple years, the Legislature has drawn down their reserves to a near-crisis level that has jeopardized the State's bond rating and left them with few options. With few options, the House and Senate looked at spreading the impact proportionately to minimize the pain across state and local governments.

The results of this package (to date) are captured in the following attachment. COG staff continues to track recurring cuts to shore up the FY18 budget and other legislation that will impact local governments, including increasing an additional 1/16th distribution for County supported Medicaid.

If you have any questions on the outcome of legislation or funding, please feel free to contact Evan Williams, Deputy Director: [ewilliams@nwnmcog.org](mailto:ewilliams@nwnmcog.org) or (505) 409-7955 (cell).

## *Quick Review*

Your Council of Governments participates and maintains a presence for the entire Session, as a service to our members, our rural and tribal communities, and our Legislators. We are here to serve your needs and track items of interest for our members. Our organization does not lobby but we understand our region and communities, making us valuable to Legislators, staff, and your hired Lobbyists as an informational resource.

**HB 4: Revert Balances of Certain Funds** - would require all FY17 balances of the Insurance Operations Fund, Fire Protection Fund, Fire Protection Grant Fund and Law Enforcement Protection Fund to revert rather than carry forward for spending in FY18). There was major discussion from NMML and NMAC members regarding key issues effect on small counties, NMFA Intercept Issue, and NMFA Loans as this may be pledged revenue for repayment. LFC combatted these with built-in flexibility from moving to an accrual accounting basis and ability to negotiate the distribution schedule for "periodic payments", and amendment was accepted that adds NMAC and NMML into these negotiations. It will not change the total amount nor the formula. **Status: Passed both Houses, Governor signed. This measure results in \$78M to the General Fund.**

**HB 5: Capital Outlay Project Changes** - The original bill reauthorizes taxable bond proceeds and other state funds to restore general fund capital expenditures made on or before June 30, 2016. The bill suspends for one year the severance tax bond capacity earmarked for water, tribal, and colonias



infrastructure funds, and provides for non-recurring use of severance tax bonding capacity to assist in addressing solvency issues. HB5 contains an FIR with the list of capital outlay projects (FY13-16) that are unencumbered.

Amendments in both Houses removed the project deauthorizations.

**Status: Passed both Houses, but did not receive concurrence due to differences with the one-year delay of WTB, TIF, and CIF (Senate) versus two-year delay of only WTB (House).**

**SB113: Revert Balances of Certain Funds** - this bill reduces general fund appropriations for the current year, transfers cash balances in certain funds to the general fund, appropriates other state funds to offset some of the general fund reductions, provides authority to reduce agency operating budgets, and transfers remaining tobacco settlement fund cash balances to the operating reserve account of the general fund. Concurrence version changes:

- Provided greater flexibility in below the line PED funding as requested by Executive branch,
- LEDA deduction reduced from \$11.6M to \$4M of which \$2M is earmarked for Roswell Airport Industrial Park (only if LEDA cut is NOT vetoed),
- Dropped two-year suspension of WTB,
- NMED fund balances remain as corrected by that Department.

**Status: Passed both Houses, Governor Signed with Partial Veto. Her vetoes removed:**

- \$4M in cuts to LEDA,
- \$9.1M in personal services and benefits,
- \$2.9M from the State Infrastructure Bank,
- \$4M from the wastewater facility construction loan fund,
- \$4M from the enhanced E911 fund; and,
- \$2M from the natural resources trustee fund.

**SB114: School District Cash Balances** - amends the Public School Finance Act, adding a section requiring the Public Education Department (PED) secretary to reduce the FY17 state equalization guarantee (SEG) distribution to school districts and charter schools by \$50 million as a credit for excess FY16 cash balances at school districts and charter schools. The \$50 million SEG credit would be applied proportionately to all school districts and charter schools based on their FY16 program cost. The bill directs the PED secretary to reduce SEG distributions evenly over the remainder of FY17. Concurrence version takes 2% of SEG funding, except for those districts with less than 3% in FY16 reserves/cash balances.

**Status: Passed both Houses, Governor signed. This measure results in \$48M to the General Fund.**

## *Legislative Delegation*

### **House**

Rodney Montoya, D-1  
James Strickler, D-2  
Paul Brandy, D-3  
Sharon Clahchischillige, D-4  
Lee Alcon, D-6  
Wonda Johnson, D-5  
Patty Lundstrom, D-9  
Derrick Lente, D-65  
Harry Garcia, D-69

### **Senate**

William Sharer, D-1  
Steve Neville, D-2  
John Pinto, D-3  
George Munoz, D-4  
Benny Shendo, D-22  
Clemente Sanchez, D-30

## *Legislative Leadership*

### **House**

Rep. Brian Egolf, Speaker  
Rep. Sheryl Stapleton, Majority Floor Leader  
Rep. Doreen Gallegos, Majority Whip  
Rep. D. Wonda Johnson, Majority Caucus Chair\*  
Rep. Nate Gentry, Minority Floor Leader  
Rep. Rod Montoya, Minority Whip\*

### **Senate**

Sen. Mary Kay Papen, President Pro Tempore  
Sen. Peter Wirth, Majority Floor Leader  
Sen. Michael Padilla, Majority Whip  
Sen. Jacob Canderlaria, Caucus Chair  
Sen. Stuart Ingle, Minority Leader  
Sen. William Payne, Minority Whip  
Sen. Steve Neville, Caucus Chair\*

## *Session Dates - 2017*

**January 17** - Opening Day

**February 10** - Reauthorization Submission Deadline

**February 13** - Capital Outlay Submission Deadline

**February 16** - Bill Deadline for Introduction

**March 18** - Session Ends

**April 7** - Legislation not acted upon by Governor is pocket vetoed

**June 16** - Effective date of legislation not carrying an emergency clause or specified date

# Northwest New Mexico POWER Transitions for a Coal-Reliant Region

The strength of a \$327,300 grant from the US Economic Development Administration (EDA), the COG commissioned a special study assessing impacts on our region from changes and transitions in the coal economy, pointing the way to promising strategies for diversifying the economic drivers in our region and strengthening our economic resilience and sustainability. The COG contracted with Highland Economics out of Portland, Oregon, to perform this study and prepare the report, to be showcased by Highland principal Barbara Wyse at the COG Board of Directors meeting in Santa Fe on February 8th.

Building on the work formerly accomplished by POWER Project Manager David Hinkle, the COG's Economic Development Program Manager Jeff Condrey has continued the work of managing the POWER initiative. A Gallup native, Jeff returned to his home community this past Fall to take on this work with the COG, following 25 years of important executive assignments in New Mexico for state, federal and local government.

Highland's "POWER Report" marks the 75% completion point of the EDA grant. Three major tasks remain for the COG up through June of this year, and beyond:

The first phase of the POWER Initiative is nearing the 75% complete mark. This inter-agency collaborative program provides funding to historically coal-dependent communities and regions, with the intent of generating proactive and adaptive economic development strategies and activities moving our local economies into the future as the world transitions from coal-based to other forms of power generation. The final report from Highland Economics will be presented to the NWNMCOG Board of Directors at the February 8, 2017 meeting for acceptance. Three major components remain:

## *Securing Additional POWER Funding for Implementation Initiatives*

At the initiative of Project Manager Jeff Condrey, the COG seized the initiative to apply to the US Department of Labor for a "Dislocated Workers Grant" – a targeted DOL effort under the federal POWER collaborative. For this particular grant, capped at \$5 million per award, State government must be the applicant, and New Mexico's Department of Workforce Solutions has been active supporter in the effort, along with key partners from Cibola, McKinley and San Juan Counties, the Northern Area Local Workforce Development Board and the Community Economics Lab in Albuquerque. A key asset to the effort has been the grantsmanship services of consultant Charles Lehman, made available in connection with his contract with the University of New Mexico-Gallup by UNM-G CEO Dr. Chris Dyer.

A successful grant would bring several million dollars into Northwest New Mexico to support enhanced and targeted workforce services to workers laid off and otherwise impacted by contractions in coal-related industry in the region.

## *Co-Convening a Regional Summit with San Juan College*

The next phase in our regional collaborative is to coordinate with San Juan College President Dr. Toni Pendergrass and her team on convening a Regional Summit for stakeholders throughout the Four Corners region. The prima-

ry purpose will be to broaden and strengthen regional collaboration around implementing strategies from the POWER Report, including engaging Federal agencies in committing funding streams to economic diversification and transition efforts throughout the region.

## *Securing Continuation Funding for Regional Implementation, Coordination & Oversight.*

The final challenge of the current grant scope will be to identify and secure recurring revenues to continue overall coordination and implementation of the POWER initiative. There is strong support from our federal partners out of the EDA Austin Regional Office, most especially its Economic Development Integrator Rick Sebenoler and Economic Development Representative Trisha Korbas, who serves New Mexico and West Texas on behalf of the Austin Regional Office.

Our goal, in bridging support from both the outgoing and incoming federal administrations, is to keep the "POWER" momentum going in the broader Four Corners region, and to accelerate public and private investment in implementing the region's POWER priorities. In that light, it is worth noting the following excerpts from the Trump Administration's recent statement, *An America First Energy Plan*:

*Energy is an essential part of American life and a staple of the world economy. The Trump Administration is committed to energy policies that lower costs for hard-working Americans and maximize the use of American resources, freeing us from dependence on foreign oil. ...*

*For too long, we've been held back by burdensome regulations on our energy industry. ... Sound energy policy begins with the recognition that we have vast untapped domestic energy reserves right here in America. The Trump Administration will embrace the shale oil and gas revolution to bring jobs and prosperity to millions of Americans. ...*

*The Trump Administration is also committed to clean coal technology, and to reviving America's coal industry, which has been hurting for too long.*

# SAN JUAN COUNTY UTILITY STUDY

This Fall, after more than a year of assisting San Juan County with contract negotiations with the State of New Mexico, the Northwest COG began its work on behalf of San Juan County administering a \$150,000 legislative appropriation sponsored in 2015 by Rep. Sharon Clahchischilliage. The funding is for development of a master utility plan for the Representative's legislative district area and closely neighboring corridors.

The COG and County tapped Souder Miller & Associates, operating out of their Farmington office, to carry out the technical planning and engineering details for the study. For the COG, Executive Director Jeff Kiely teamed up with the COG's Planning Assistant Carrie House to assist with overall project coordination and the technical mapping work. Based on her expertise and experience in GIS mapping, Carrie has provided excellent "value-added" support to the Souder Miller team in ramping up the project.

The goal of the project is to lay out a prioritized plan that can be used to attract public and private investments in essential utility infrastructure along the region's key corridors.

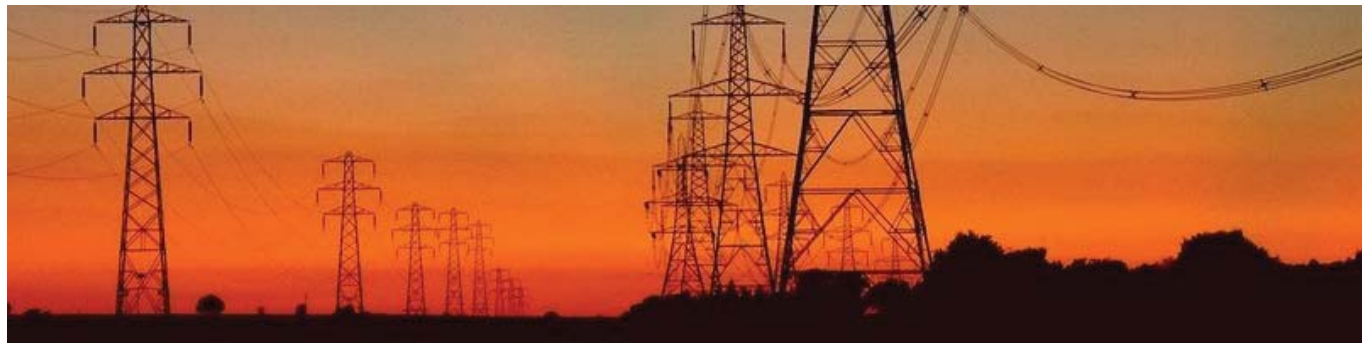
In early December, the COG joined San Juan County and Souder Miller staff in a project kickoff meeting, and then helped organize and facilitate a special meeting in Gallup for Rep. Clahchischilliage to engage primary partners in the extensive data-sharing and mapping work required by the project. Participants included: State Representative Patty Lundstrom, Navajo Tribal Utility Authority's Rex Kontz, New Mexico Gas Company's Mary Holman, PNM's Matthew Jaramillo, San Juan County's Evan O'Keefe, SMA's Greta Quintana, BIA Navajo Regional Director Sharon Pinto and Simone Jones.

In early January, the COG assisted the Souder Miller team in hosting a public planning meeting at San

Juan College in Farmington, attended by representatives of utility companies, federal agencies and affected Chapters of the Navajo Nation. Also attending a portion of the meeting was our federal colleague Trisha Korbas, Economic Development Representative for New Mexico on behalf of the US Economic Development Administration. Following project presentations by Rep. Clahchischilliage, the COG and Souder Miller, one-on-one consultations were held with meeting participants. Presentations and discussions helped redefine the areas of study; regions between US 491, Navajo Service Route 9, NM Route 371 northerly to Colorado state border, and US 64 northerly to the Four Corners. Essentially, the west end of San Juan County to the state of Arizona and to the southern boundary bordering McKinley County. During this quarter, COG executed an agreement with a consulting firm, Souder, Miller & Associates (SMA), to carry out technical details of the project.

Proprietary data from these key partners were achieved, or to be acquired, to further the mapping of utility infrastructure study. The study is to determine areas which need additional utility infrastructure (water, electric, gas, broadband, wastewater..) or if the existing infrastructure can no longer support the needs of the community.

Support from various agencies within the Navajo Nation is key, to collectively evaluate provided data to address the insufficiencies. SMA's Engineering Reports will assist Representative Clahchischilliage in identifying infrastructure project funding as it relates to economic growth. The COG, SMA, and others are continuing to work together, collecting necessary data, and are meeting with key parties within the western San Juan County regions. June 2017 is the scheduled deadline for the legislative appropriations bill.





# LOCAL PLAN DEVELOPMENT

The Northwest New Mexico Council of Governments (COG) has participated in various plan development activities throughout the region. Specifically, the COG is involved at various levels in four projects: The City of Grants' Comprehensive Plan Update, the City of Grants' Metropolitan Redevelopment Area (MRA) Plan, the Village of Milan's Comprehensive Plan Update, and the McKinley County/Thoreau Economic Feasibility and Master Plan project. The goal of the COG is to ensure that high quality plans are developed for the local governments of this region.

## *Grants Metropolitan Redevelopment Area (MRA) Plan*

On April 23, 2015, the New Mexico Finance Authority made the decision to award \$50,000 to the City of Grants for the development of a Metropolitan Redevelopment Area (MRA) Plan. In the spring of 2016, just before the start of the Comprehensive Plan Update project, the City of Grants initiated the development of a Metropolitan Redevelopment Area (MRA) Plan for downtown Grants. The plan's purpose was to diminish slum and blight; a designation that was giving to the City of Grant's downtown after a report published in 2014 by New Mexico Main Street & Community by Design. Furthermore, the plan was developed to guide development within the downtown district and to improve the overall quality of life for the residents of city. After multiple steering committee meetings, public hearings, and interactive charrettes, the consultants Consensus Planning released the first draft in December 2016. Planners at Consensus Planning are currently revising the MRA Plan and presentation for adoption by the City Council should take place in the next couple of months.

The COG will continue to assist the City of Grants in finalizing and implementing projects identify within the plan.

## *City of Grants Comprehensive Plan Update*

A few months after the work began on the development of the MRA plan, the City hired Architecture Research Consultants as the planning firm to initiate work on the update of the City's Comprehensive Plan. The purpose of the plan is to develop a cohesive twenty-year community vision for future development of the city. The plan covers multiple existing and projected physical, social, cultural, environmental, and economic planning elements. The COG has been invited to sit on the steering committee to provide further consultation on local, regional and state conditions, processes, and opportunities. To date, the COG has attended various meetings where the above planning elements were discussed at length. Architecture Research Consultants have indicated that the first draft of the Comprehensive Plan will be released in April and a final in June.

Like the MRA plan, the COG will continue to assist the City in implementing projects identified within the plan.

## *Village of Milan Comprehensive Plan Update*

In May 2015, the State of New Mexico Department of Finance & Administration's Local Government Division issued an award of \$50,000 to the Village of Milan for the update of the Comprehensive Plan. After the COG successfully retrieved grant dollars for the Village, continued consultation occurred throughout the year. Unfortunately, the Village had been burdened with other vital projects and project initiative has been delay. The Village is currently in the process of selecting a consulting firm to completed the work identified in the Request for

Proposals. The COG was one of the bidding entities and is awaiting word from the Village.

Selected or not, the COG will participate in the development of the comprehensive plan as the production of a high-quality plan for the Village is crucial for continued progress in improving prosperity.

## *Thoreau Economic Feasibility Study & Community Complex Master Plan*

In 2014, the COG was approached by the St. Bonaventure Indian Mission (SBIM) Director Chris Halter requesting assistance with obtaining funding to plan a community complex for the residents of Thoreau and the surrounding area. At the time, the COG advised SBIM to work with the County Commission and Manager to 1) get the project onto the County's ICIP, 2) request COG's assistance under the McKinley County Work Program to develop and submit a New Mexico Finance Authority Local Government Planning Grant. In January 2016, McKinley County was notified that they were awarded \$50,000 to complete an economic feasibility study for the community of Thoreau, a master plan for a community complex and a phase I site development plan for the community complex. McKinley County then request the COG to manage the project to completion. The COG hired Wilson & Company as the lead consultants and for the past 7 months, various meetings and community input processes have taken place. In late January 2017, Wilson & Company presented the final draft to the McKinley County Commission where the plan was unanimously supported.

In the coming months, the COG will consult with SBIM to ensure that there is a strategic plan for implementation of the community complex.



# COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE

The United States Housing and Urban Development (HUD)'s Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) has long been a staple in financing community infrastructure projects in Northwest New Mexico. From roadway reconstruction to wastewater improvements, CDBG has been tapped by every local government within the service area of the Council of Governments (COG). With help from the COG, local governments have been routinely successful in obtaining the \$500,000 CDBG construction and/or the \$50,000 CDBG planning dollars.

Recent statewide economic decline has led local governments to minimize spending of their general funds on community infrastructure projects. The reaction by local governments to the economic decline has vaulted the desirability and importance of outside funding resources, specifically CDBG. This is true in northwest New Mexico, as four local governments have requested COG assistance in developing CDBG construction grant applications. The entities include McKinley County, Cibola County, the City of Grants, and the Village of Milan.

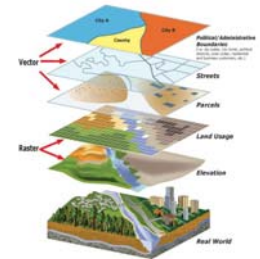
**McKinley County CDBG** – McKinley County initiated discussion regarding the submission of a CDBG grant in the spring of 2016 as their current CDBG construction project, Gamarco Water System Improvements was gearing up for close-out. In recent months, County and COG staff have hosted multiple public hearings to gain public insight on potential projects. County and COG staff have vetted all identified projects to determine eligibility and readiness and will consult with County officials on the project that showcases the highest level of competitiveness. McKinley County hopes to select a project in the coming weeks. COG Planner Brandon Howe has been assigned to assist County staff to ensure the application is fully developed and submitted on time.

**Cibola County CDBG** – In the fall of 2016, Cibola County hosted their public hearing to gain citizen input on potential CDBG projects. Various projects were proposed but only a few met the eligibility requirements of the program. After a detailed vetting process led the COG, the County identified the construction/renovation of a new Cibola County Emergency Dispatch Center as the project with the high level of competitiveness. In December 2015, County officials selected the Emergency Dispatch Center as their next CDBG construction project. In the coming months, the COG Deputy Director Evan Williams and Planner Brandon Howe will co-lead the development and submission of an application to the Department of Finance and Administration's Local Government Division.

**City of Grants CDBG** – Like Cibola County, the City of Grants hosted their public input sessions in the fall of 2016 and various projects were discussed. A majority of the projects identified were ineligible for CDBG funds but a few made it to the final cut. After continuous review of eligible projects, the City of Grants chose a project that was previously denied award in 2013. The reason for choosing this project was in part due to the completeness of the previous application and the ease in which a new application could be developed. COG Planner Brandon Howe and Planning Assistant Carrie House will assist City staff to ensure the application is fully developed and submitted on time.

**Village of Milan CDBG** – Before the Village of Milan could legally close out their most recent CDBG project, Uranium Avenue/Sand Street Improvements - Phase V, the internal decision to apply for 2017-2018 CDBG funds had already been made. The COG reached out to the Village of Milan offering assistance to develop and submit the Village's next

CDBG grant application. In the fall of 2016, COG staff developed presentation material to be used in upcoming public hearings. In December 2015 and January 2017, the COG assisted the Village of Milan in hosting public hearings to obtain citizen input on CDBG projects. Both lightly attended meetings were held at the Village Hall, however in contrast to the attendance, discussion was robust and proactive. Multiple projects were identified ranging from street reconstruction to utility improvements. The COG just wrapped up the project vetting process and is currently waiting on the selection of a project from the Village Trustees. COG Planner Brandon Howe and Planning Assistant Robert Kuipers have been assigned to this project to ensure development and submission of the construction application.



## Geographic Information Systems

Geographic information systems (GIS) is essentially digital cartography containing various spatial data layers. GIS is a platform integrating community development initiatives. GIS dataset collection is ongoing. The Northwest New Mexico Council of Governments (COG) mapping services entail data collection, mapping and map production. COG's plotter (printer) can scan, copy and plot, with color ink and 36" roll paper capabilities. GPS data collector is capable of collecting data within a 3 meter range. Mapping workstation has ESRI's ArcMap software to produce maps.



# REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION

## *FY18 Regional Transportation Improvement Program Recommendations (RTIPR):*

The NWRTPO engaged a much more objective project evaluation process this go round in our call for projects for the FY 18 (2018 – 2023) RTIPR; and developed a much more fiscally constrained document, only citing projects that functionally qualify for federal funding. Over the past several months RTPO staff and DOT colleagues reviewed and held consultations with RTPO members on 60 Project Feasibility Forms (PFF's); of which 36 projects were approved to move forward for inclusion in the RTIPR through Project Identification Form (PIF) submissions. At our December meeting 12 of these projects competed for RTIPR prioritization; all other projects were incorporated in the RTIPR in a non-competitive (equal) manner. RTPO staff entered all projects into our Panoramic project management system and drafted the RTIPR for review at our January meeting and finalization at our February meeting. The final FY18 RTIPR cites 36 projects including 5 Roadway, 4 Planning, 15 Transportation Alternative Program (TAP / bike & pedestrian trails), 3 Recreational Trails Program (RTP), 1 bridge, 2 Federal Lands Access Program (FLAP) and 6 Safety (HSIP) projects. As a result, while the FY17 RTIPR totaled at \$340.4 million with 98 projects; the FY18 RTIPR now totals \$65 million with 36 projects – all of which qualify for federal funding through the NMDOT STIP. RTPO staff have also developed a comprehensive project list for the NWRTPO region which demonstrates the total need for our region at \$777 million!

## *Annual RTPO Documents & Appointments:*

At the February 8 meeting in Zuni, NWRTPO members will approve and authorize the following annual guiding documents: RTPO Bylaws, Title VI Plan, Open Meetings Act Resolution, and Public

Participation Plan. Members will also reauthorize Jeff Irving as RTPO Chair (McKinley County), and Dave Deutsawe as Vice-Chair (Pueblo of Acoma) for another year. A number of alternative members will also be gaining the needed documentation, supporting their positions within the RTPO from their respective governments. The NWRTPO will also be scheduling another annual round of meetings to be publicly announced (meetings rotate around the three counties each year) for the period from May, 2017 through April, 2018.

## *Area Trail Projects:*

The NWRTPO continues to support recreational trails in our region's communities and public / forest lands for bicycles and pedestrians / hikers. The FY18 RTIPR supports 15 trail projects, including the Zuni Mountain Trails Partnership, with two projects seeking RTP funding for a 15.2 mile segment in Cibola County, and a 25.7 mile segment in McKinley County. This collaborative project with the US Forest Service is developing a 238 mile trail system – one of the largest in the nation, supporting recreational economic development for our region. Beside the ZMTP trails, there is also extensive trail development in the Pueblo of Laguna, along with Grants, Acoma, Ramah and Northern Navajo.



## *Johnson Road and area RSA's:*

The Johnson Road project that the RTPO and COG have been supporting for years, is finally coming to fruition as a new Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) has been authorized between the Navajo Nation and McKinley County, allowing the County and Navajo DOT to collaborate in developing this corridor which runs from Tohlakai off US491 (Twin Lakes Chapter) toward Coyote Canyon, serving a large Navajo population. This will help move this project forward for 6.3 miles of chip-seal improvement to this corridor. / During the course of 2016 at least three Road Safety Audits (RSA's) were conducted in our NWRTPO region including NM602, NM53 and most recently NM118. In the new RTIPR there are new requests for RSA's for NM53 Ramah area intersections and US491 northern Shiprock area intersections.

## *Panoramic Website and Real Time Project Representation:*

NWRTPO and the NWNM-COG continue collaboration with Northern Pueblos RTPO and the North Central Econ. Dev. District (COG) for development of a real-time project monitoring system that reports project funding and development status – starting with transportation infrastructure and services. This website will eventually report real-time project status for a wide variety of community development initiatives.

## *NWRTPO Orientation Sessions in 2017 for Elected and Dept. Leaders:*

RTPO staff are working with members to commence another round of NWRTPO Orientation sessions with elected and department leaders for our participating governments. These are conducted every three years to familiarize our leaders with the role and function the RTPO plays for collaborative transportation infrastructure development on behalf of our rural local governments in collaboration with the NM-DOT.

#### 4-CITE & Energy Logistics Park:

During the past quarter RTPPO staff followed up with area stakeholders along with supporting engineering firms - Bohannon Huston, Wilson & Co., and Souder Miller & Assoc., to finalize the 4-CITE Master Plan for an Energy Logistics Park and Navajo Inland Port northwest of Gallup. Gallup Land Partners and the GGEDC announced a \$4 million investment into this initiative in October for development of a rail terminal. Also BNSF announced six new "BNSF Certified Sites" considered optimal for development along its rail network on 1/25/17 in Fort Worth Texas; one of these six sites was the Gallup Energy Logistics Park. In a nutshell, this means that BNSF will support this project with national marketing for economic development. While current development is for 365 acres, it is anticipated that the project could eventually encompass up to 2,500 acres for both the energy park and a potential Navajo Inland Port.



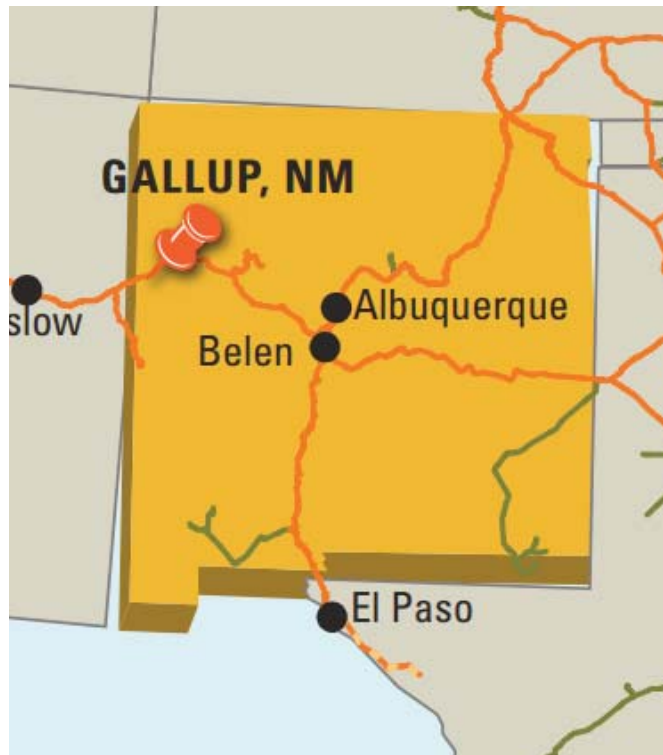
SITE PROFILE	
Land Area	365 acres
Zoning	Heavy Industrial
Owner	Gallup Energy Logistics Park, LLC

DEMOGRAPHICS	
Gallup, a city in McKinley County, is part of the North and West Central New Mexico nonmetropolitan area. The estimated population of McKinley County is 76,708.	

POPULATION	
Gallup, NM	23,240
10 mile radius	30,321
15 mile radius	36,524

UTILITIES	
Electric	Gallup Joint Utilities & Continental Divide Electric Cooperative
Gas	NM Gas Company
Water	Gallup Joint Utilities
Wastewater	Gallup Joint Utilities
Telecommunications	CenturyLink & Sacred Wind Communication

WORKFORCE	
Gallup attracts commuters from the North and West Central New Mexico nonmetropolitan area.	
Total Wage & Salary Employment	62,650
Annual Mean Wage	\$35,500



#### Regional Contact

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## *Message from the Director*

Dear Friends,

Winter greetings to all.

We're gearing up for our Winter Board meeting in Santa Fe, where we'll be getting some pretty big deal reports on our economic development work in the region.

First up is "La Ristra-Northwest," our regional Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy, co-presented by our consultant Jim Glover of the Idea Group of Santa Fe. This will show the substantial "innovation work" we've been doing to make this Strategy a dynamic tool for aligning our work throughout the region and for accessing data, plans and tools going forward.

Next up, Jim will share with us the work he has been doing in Farmington and Gallup on "community branding" – helping those communities define their sense of place, symbolize their character and get everyone working together to attract the world to our unique places of culture and commerce.

We will then hear from Jamai Blivin, CEO of the Santa Fe-based nonprofit "Innovate+Educate," and her New Mexico Pathways Project Director Dr. Mike Stanton, who has been working with "Communities of Progress" initiatives in Farmington and Gallup.

Finally, the presentation by Barbara Wyse of Highland Economics showcasing the Final Report from the regional study recently completed under the COG's POWER initiative, which was funded by the US Economic Development Administration to assess the economic impacts of changes and transitions in the coal industry, along with strategic recommendations on actions the region can take to diversify and sustain the regional economy in the future.

These are turbulent times for our nation and the world, but we see great hope for building the foundations of resilience and prosperity in our communities – if we continue to band together and collaborate in pursuit of that vision. We're working on convening a regional economic summit this Spring to help strengthen that vision and that collaborative effort, and we'll keep you apprised on the details of time and place.

Best wishes to all for a beautiful and safe winter season, and we'll see you along the way as we "power on" toward the future,

*Jeff*

Jeff Kiely

Executive Director

