

# NEW MEXICO STATE TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

## MEETING

### Video Conference Meeting

March 25, 2021

The New Mexico State Transportation Commission (STC or Commission) held a regular meeting via video conference on March 25, 2021. Chairman Adams called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m. He asked for a roll call to establish a quorum. Mershawn Griego, Office of the Secretary, New Mexico Department of Transportation (NMDOT), proceeded to call the roll. Commissioners Walter G. Adams, Hilma E. Chynoweth, Commissioner Thomas C. Taylor and Charles Lundstrom were present.

#### **Approval of the STC Meeting Agenda**

**Chairman Adams asked for a motion to approve the STC agenda with the following change: move item number 8, Secretary Report, down to after item number 12, Policy Reports. Commissioner Taylor made a motion to so approve; Commissioner Chynoweth seconded; motion carried unanimously.**

#### **Approval of the STC Minutes**

**Chairman Adams asked for a motion to approve the January 22, 2021 STC regular teleconference meeting minutes; Commissioner Lundstrom made a motion to so approve; Commissioner Taylor seconded; motion carried unanimously.**

March 25, 2021

**State Transportation Commissioners Present:**

Jennifer Sandoval, Vice-Chair, District One (Absent with Notice)  
Bruce Ellis, Commissioner, District Two (Absent with Notice)  
Hilma E. Chynoweth, Commissioner, District Three Walter G. Adams, Chairman, District Four  
Thomas C. Taylor, Commissioner, District Five  
Charles Lundstrom, Secretary, District Six

**NMDOT Staff Present:**

Michael Sandoval, Cabinet Secretary  
Justin Reese, Deputy Secretary, Business Support  
Rick Padilla, P.E., Executive Director of Highway Operations  
Jerry Valdez, Executive Projects Director  
Kenneth B. Baca, General Counsel  
NMDOT Staff

**Elected Officials and Delegations Present:**

The Honorable Harry Garcia, New Mexico State Representative, District 69  
The Honorable Ambrose Castellano, New Mexico State Representative, District 70  
The Honorable Joy Garratt, New Mexico State Representative, District 29  
The Honorable Pete Campos, New Mexico State Senator, District 8  
The Honorable Patricia Lundstrom, New Mexico State Representative, District 9  
Harold Garcia, San Miguel County Commission Chairman, District 1  
Michael L. Montoya, Las Vegas City Council, Ward II  
Candyce O'Donnell, Taos County Commission Chair, District 5  
Edmund Yazzie, Navajo Nation Council Delegate  
The Honorable Jonathan Nez, Navajo Nation President  
William Taylor, City Manager, City of Las Vegas  
Veronica Serna, Mora County Commission Chair, District 1

**Introduction**

On behalf of the STC, Chairman Adams extended condolences to the families of long-time NMDOT District Four employees, Josephine "Jojo" Martinez and Pablo Abeyta, who both passed away recently. He also offered condolences to NMDOT staff members, Jenifer Block, Administrative Operations Manager, Ports of Entry, and Justin Reese, Deputy Secretary, Business

March 25, 2021

Support, on the passing of their grandmother, Eloisa Block. He followed by requesting a moment of silence.

Chairman Adams and Rick Padilla, P.E., Executive Director of Highway Operations, NMDOT, welcomed attendees to the STC meeting and invited the Commissioners and all elected officials in attendance to introduce themselves.

Executive Director Padilla introduced Francisco Sanchez, NMDOT's new District Two Engineer, and asked other NMDOT staff members in attendance to introduce themselves.

### **Public Comment**

The Honorable Patricia Lundstrom, New Mexico State Representative, District 9, commented regarding funding and certain 2021 Regular Legislative Session bills. Last December, the Legislative Finance Committee (LFC) developed a framework for non-reoccurring funding for an amount in excess of \$250 million. Hopefully, that funding will stay in the budget and the Governor will approve it. A portion of the funding is for state projects or state roads and the remaining amount is for local governments. This is the first time in her tenure of over 20 years in the Legislature that NMDOT's operating budget is over \$1 billion. She specifically mentioned House Bill 270, *Autonomous Vehicles* (HB 270), and Senate Bill 133, *Rural Air Service Assistance Enhancement Act* (SB 133), and acknowledged Chairman Adams, Secretary Sandoval and NMDOT staff for their assistance during the Session. She is counting on the STC to help lobby the Governor to sign HB 270 and SB 133, and to make sure that nothing is line item vetoed out of House Bill 2, *General Appropriation Act of 2021* (HB 2) because the money is needed for roads, bridges and transportation projects to help to move the economy.

March 25, 2021

Edmund Yazzie, Navajo Nation Council Delegate, commented concerning the condition of NM 371 from Thoreau to Farmington. Through resolutions submitted by certain Chapters of the Navajo Nation Government, the Resources and Development Committee and the Naabik'íyáti' Committee, the Navajo Nation Council passed legislation requesting the Governor and New Mexico leadership to repair and repave/resurface NM 371. Council Delegate Yazzie asked for the STC's guidance and recommendation on how best to proceed with the request.

NM 371 is located within Transportation Districts Five and Six. Larry Maynard, District Six Engineer, NMDOT, commented regarding increased semi traffic and ongoing work on the road. Commissioner Taylor acknowledged there is a lot of traffic on the road, a few spots that are especially tough and the issue should be addressed. Commissioner Lundstrom also commented regarding the road. He acknowledged it does need attention and that the STC can look for some type of funding to somehow address the needs.

Chairman Adams, on behalf of the STC, asked Executive Director Padilla, Secretary Sandoval, District Six Engineer Larry Maynard, and District Five Engineer Paul Brasher (not present at the meeting), to assess the road and come back to the STC with suggestions and ideas. The STC will determine where funding is at that time.

Executive Director Padilla responded that NMDOT can vet the NM 371 project and inform the Navajo Nation Council of future plans. NMDOT will also explore what might be done in the short term.

The Honorable Jonathan Nez, Navajo Nation President, commented regarding the priorities submitted to the State and Governor's Office by the Nation, including the repaving of NM 371 and other routes in need of improvement. He hopes the funds that are coming from Washington D.C.

March 25, 2021

for infrastructure improvements will give the Nation an opportunity to get some of these routes repaved. He also mentioned the Nation is looking at the possibility of a railway alongside NM 371 to open up economic and business opportunities for the Nation, the City of Farmington and others.

Chairman Adams asked Executive Director Padilla to stay in contact with Council Delegate Yazzie and the STC and to provide updates. Executive Director Padilla replied that he will provide a report at the next STC meeting.

The Honorable Harry Garcia, New Mexico State Representative, District 69, thanked Secretary Sandoval and NMDOT staff for their help during the 2021 Regular Legislative Session, especially on HB 270 and SB 133, both of which will be great assets to the State of New Mexico because they are economic drivers.

Candyce O'Donnell, Taos County Commission Chair, District 5, commented regarding HB 2, and thanked Representative Lundstrom for carrying the transportation sections of the bill. She noted that approximately \$1 million is to go toward road repair work on NM 522, the highway that Senator Roberto "Bobby" J. Gonzales, through 2020 House Memorial 45, *Senator Carlos R. Cisneros Memorial Highway*, requested the dedication and signage of in honor of the late Senator. She also mentioned that Taos County received some capital outlay funding to improve safety at the Rio Grande Gorge Bridge that will be used for security cameras connected to E 911.

The Honorable Harry Garcia, New Mexico State Representative, District 69, thanked District Six Engineer Larry Maynard and District Six Commissioner Charles Lundstrom for (1) the installation of barrier walls on certain on and off ramps and bridges to help prevent people

from stopping and dumping trash; and (2) for addressing issues with the construction zone at Exit 114 on I-40 that was causing sizeable traffic backups.

Chairman Adams mentioned he has been working with Senator Pete Campos and Representative Ambrose Castellano on proposed 2022 Session legislation that would increase the fine for littering and provide for the installation of signage as part of an awareness campaign.

Veronica Serna, Mora County Commission Chair, District 1, reported that Mora County has secured a civil engineer to help with shelf ready projects.

Vernon Lujan, Transportation Planner, Pueblo of Taos, commented that the Pueblo is very concerned about suicides and other activity at the Taos Gorge Bridge. Half of the area is on the Pueblo's boundary; therefore, when people jump from the east side of the bridge, the Pueblo has to retrieve their bodies and/or investigate the incidents, which is very costly financially and emotionally. He would appreciate any help the STC can provide.

### **Best Paving Awards**

Brian Jones, Executive Director, Asphalt Pavement Association of New Mexico (APANM), presented the 2020 Best of New Mexico Awards. The winners were: (1) Special Use Award: NMDOT District One for NM 136, outside Sunland Park near the Texas state line; (2) City Street: District One for NM 188 in Las Cruces; (3) Preventative Maintenance: District One for NM 169; (4) Rural Highway: District Two for reconstruction in Roswell; (5) Preventative Maintenance: District Three for NM 556 Tramway; (6) Rural Highway: District Three for NM 14; (7) Rural Highway: District Four for I-40, Quay County; (8) Rural Highway: District Four for I-40, Guadalupe County; (9) Project Innovation: District Five for I-25, La Bajada to Cerrillos; (10) Rural Highway: District Six for NM 279; and (11) Reconstruction: District Three for NM 528.

March 25, 2021

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## **Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) Report**

Melinda (“Mindy”) Roberson, FHWA Acting New Mexico Division Administrator, reported regarding U.S. Department Transportation (USDOT) and FHWA matters, including the recent appointments of USDOT Secretary Pete Buttigieg and FHWA Acting Administrator Stephanie Pollack. To date, they have mentioned the following areas of focus: safety, infrastructure, equity, economic recovery, and the environment. Ms. Roberson also noted a recent personnel change within the New Mexico Division Office: Jodi McCann has transitioned into a permanent position as the Civil Rights Specialist.

New Mexico received about \$91 million dollars from the Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act (CRRSAA). Approximately \$8.5 million has been set aside for urban areas with a population greater than 200,000 people. In February FHWA issued guidance regarding use of those funds, for which there are specific deadlines. The CRRSAA funds are available for obligation only through the end of September 2024, and the obligated balances are available for expenditure only through September 30, 2029. In general, the federal requirements for federal highway projects apply to CRRSAA funded projects, including provisions like Buy America, the National Environmental Policy Act and the Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Program. CRRSAA project funds can be divided into three broad category types: (1) projects that are eligible using the requirements of the Surface Transportation Block Grant Program; (2) projects that are eligible under special authorities that were given within the Act; and (3) funds that can be transferred to public tolling agencies and ferry systems that will provide a public transportation benefit.

March 25, 2021





## **District Four Update**

James Gallegos, P.E., District Four Engineer, NMDOT, provided an update regarding District Four, during which he discussed the District's various projects, pavement preservation, maintenance and other activities. He also acknowledged and thanked District Four staff for helping with COVID-19 activities and extended his condolences to the family of JoJo Martinez on her passing.

## **Finance Reports**

### **NMDOT Financial Status Update**

Mallery Manzanares, Budget Director and Acting ASD Director, NMDOT, presented the FY2021 NMDOT financial status update as of March 1, 2021. State Road Fund: to date, NMDOT has received a total of \$465.1 million in revenue and paid out a total of \$545.9 million. Restricted Funds: to date, NMDOT has received a total of \$39.5 million in revenue and spent a total of \$38 million. Mrs. Manzanares also discussed NMDOT's current cash balances for operating budget funds and reported that after presentation of the budget adjustment requests (BARs) at the STC meeting today, fund balances will be: Road Fund: \$30.5 million; Restricted Funds: \$32.6 million; and Operating Fund: \$63.3 million.

### **Approval of FY21 Budget Adjustment Request (BAR) No. 20 - P563 - HOP - US 550 Warranty)**

Rick Padilla, P.E., Executive Director of Highway Operations, NMDOT, presented and requested approval of FY21 BAR No. 20 - P563 - HOP - US 550 Warranty. The BAR is required to increase the budget authority for the FY21 US 550 Warranty Program (Category 300) by \$2.6

March 25, 2021

million. The agreement with Mesa PDC for Corridor 44 (US 550) Professional Services and Warranty, executed on July 27, 1998, stipulates that eligible work covered by the warranty must be administered by the State, including procurement of services and payment to the contractor performing the services. Mesa PDC will reimburse NMDOT for a percentage of the expenditures. The percentage is based on an inflationary clause in the agreement. This year, the total needed is \$2.6 million. Mesa PDC's reimbursement will be 70.72%, which amounts to \$1,838,720. NMDOT's match will be 29.28%, which equals \$761,280, and will come from fund balance.

**Chairman Adams asked for a motion to approve FY21 BAR No. 20 - P563 - HOP - US 550 Warranty; Commissioner Taylor made a motion to so approve; Commissioner Lundstrom seconded; motion carried unanimously.**

**Approval of FY21 BAR No. 21 - P562 - PDC - Bond Refunding**

Tamara Haas, P.E., Capital Programs and Investment Division Director, NMDOT, presented and requested approval of FY21 BAR No. 21 - P562 - PDC - Bond Refunding. The BAR is required to move the budget authority in Other (Category 400) to Other Financing Uses (Category 500), and is for the amount of \$71,907,193. The funds are for the 2020A Series Refunding Revenue Bonds transaction that NMDOT completed in October 2020. The budget authority is needed to properly record the refunding in NMDOT's financial system.

**Chairman Adams asked for a motion to approve FY21 BAR No. 21 - P562 - PDC - Bond Refunding; Commissioner Chynoweth made a motion to approve as presented; Commissioner Taylor seconded; motion carried unanimously.**

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### **Approval of FY21 BAR No. 22 - P562 - FHWA Releases**

Mallery Manzanares, Budget Director and Acting ASD Director, NMDOT, presented and requested approval of FY21 BAR No. 22 - P562 - FHWA Releases. The BAR is required to establish budget authority for the FHWA program. It will increase Contractual Services (Category 300) by \$24.0 million, all of which all are federal funds. The state match requirement will be met with existing budget authority. This BAR covers FHWA releases that have occurred in Federal FY21.

**Chairman Adams asked for a motion to approve FY21 BAR No. 22 - P562 - FHWA Releases; Commissioner Taylor made a motion to so approve; Commissioner Chynoweth seconded; motion carried unanimously.**

### **Approval of FY21 BAR No. 23 - P564 - Brine Well**

Mallery Manzanares, Budget Director and Acting ASD Director, NMDOT, presented and requested approval of BAR No. 23 - P564 - Brine Well. The BAR is required to establish budget authority for the Business Support Program, and will increase budget authority in Other Financing Uses (Category 500) by \$1,000,000. NMDOT will transfer the funds from State Road Fund balance to the Energy Minerals and Natural Resources Department for the brine well remediation. This transfer is made in accordance with 2020 Regular Legislative Session House Bill 349.

**Chairman Adams asked for a motion to approve FY21 BAR No. 23 - P564 - Brine Well; Commissioner Lundstrom made a motion to so approve; Commissioner Taylor seconded; motion carried unanimously.**

**Approval of FY20/21 Local Governments Road Fund (LGRF) Financial Hardship Match Waiver Program Request**

Clarissa Martinez, Statewide LGRF Manager, NMDOT, presented and requested approval of the FY21 LGRF Match Waiver Program request. The LGRF Match Waiver Program authorizes NMDOT to distribute up to \$1 million of LGRF money to local entities that can demonstrate financial hardship, for use as all or a portion of their 25% match requirement. The project for the Village of Eagle Nest, identified on the “FY21 LGRF Match Waiver Applicants Selected” list (page 92 in the STC meeting book) was analyzed by the New Mexico Department of Finance and Administration (DFA) and deemed eligible for the Match Waiver Program. NMDOT is therefore requesting the STC’s approval to distribute Match Waiver Program funding in the amount of \$5,889 to the Village of Eagle Nest.

**Chairman Adams asked for a motion to approve the FY21 LGRF Financial Hardship Match Waiver Program request; Commissioner Chynoweth made a motion to so approve, as recommended; Commissioner Lundstrom seconded; motion carried unanimously.**

**New Mexico Finance Authority (NMFA) Report**

Mark Lovato, Investment Manager, NMFA, provided an update regarding NMDOT’s investment portfolio funds under NMFA management and NMDOT/NMFA’s outstanding bond debt service as of February 28, 2021. As of that date, NMFA was holding approximately \$60 million for debt service. NMFA has received two months of debt service payments totaling \$25.6 million and is currently holding \$85.6 million for debt service. NMDOT’s next bond payment for the total amount of \$122.8 million is due on June 15, 2021. Currently, there is \$230,637 in the

March 25, 2021

arbitrage rebate account and \$6.7 million in the project account. In late January NMFA paid the quarterly fee on NMDOT's \$50 million line of credit at Wells Fargo. The next payment is due in April 2021. Since the line of credit began in July 2013, NMDOT has paid a total of \$712,069 in commitment fees. NMDOT's current outstanding debt is \$864,870,000. A debt service payment of \$122.8 million is due on June 15, 2021. After NMDOT's December 15, 2020 payment of \$29.3 million, its annual debt service will total \$152.1 million dollars.

## **Policy Reports**

### **Final Rule Action Report and Recommendation to Adopt Rule 18.27.6 - Transportation Project Fund, to be effective April 20, 2021**

Stephen Thies, Assistant General Counsel, NMDOT, presented and requested the STC's approval and adoption of Rule 18.27.6 - Transportation Project Fund, to be effective April 20, 2021. During the 2019 Legislative Session, the Legislature passed House Bill 694 which created a new fund known as the "Local Government Transportation Project Fund" (LGTPF). The LGTPF serves as an expeditious mechanism to distribute appropriated funds to local governments using the NMDOT's existing Metropolitan Planning Organization and Regional Transportation Planning Organization planning process. The LGTPF provides for a 95% / 5% match. Local entities can also request a waiver of the 5% match requirement. The Legislature changed the name of the LGTPF to the Transportation Project Fund in the 2020 Regular Session (House Bill 207).

Due to timelines specified in HB 694, NMDOT issued an emergency rule in mid-2019 to administer the initial \$50 million appropriation. (No money was appropriated to the LGTPF during the 2020 Regular Session). At the same time the STC authorized the adoption of an emergency

March 25, 2021

rule, it authorized the initiation of rulemaking proceedings for adoption of a permanent rule. That rulemaking process has now been completed.

If this request is approved and the final rule is authorized for publication, it will be published in the State Register on April 20, 2021, and will be effective on the date of publication. At or prior to that time, NMDOT will start requesting applications for projects that would be funded in August 2021.

**Chairman Adams asked for a motion to approve and adopt Rule 18.27.6 – Transportation Project Fund, to be effective April 20, 2021; Commissioner Taylor made a motion to so approve; Commissioner Chynoweth seconded; motion carried unanimously.**

**Proposed Reinstatement of and Amendments to State Transportation Commission Policy No. 83, *Priority Determination for Highway Improvements (CP 83)*, including title change to *“Priority Determination for Transportation Projects”***

Tamara Haas, P.E., Capital Programs and Investments Division Director, NMDOT, presented and requested the STC to take action to approve the proposed reinstatement of and amendments to CP 83. She briefed the STC regarding this matter at its January 2021 meeting. The proposed amendments will (1) change NMDOT’s existing project prioritization policy to a performance-driven, outcome-based system, which is consistent with current FHWA policy, and (2) modify the title of CP 83 to *“Priority Determination for Transportation Projects”*.

**Chairman Adams asked for a motion to approve the proposed reinstatement of and amendments to CP 83, including the title change to “Priority Determination for Transportation Projects; Commissioner Taylor made a motion to so approve; Commissioner Chynoweth seconded; motion carried unanimously.**

March 25, 2021



## **Approval of STC Resolution No. 2021-01 (MAR) - Authorizing Bond Resolution**

Tamara Haas, P.E., Capital Programs and Investments Division Director, NMDOT, requested the STC's authorization and approval for the New Mexico Finance Authority (NMFA) to issue transportation revenue bonds in an aggregate principal amount not to exceed \$234.6 million. With interest rates near all-time lows, NMDOT could generate proceeds of \$290 million from the bonds to finance certain transportation projects and, in so doing, help improve the economy of New Mexico. NMDOT will work with NMFA for the purpose of issuing the bonds.

Mrs. Haas introduced NMDOT's financial advisor, Peter Shellenberger, Managing Director, PFM Financial Advisors LLC, and NMDOT's contract bond counsel, Ken Guckenberger, Partner, Kutak Rock, LLP. Mr. Shellenberger presented an analysis regarding current market conditions and borrowing structure considerations with respect to the proposed bond transaction. Mr. Guckenberger discussed proposed STC Resolution No. 2021-02 (MAR), which implements the financial strategy Mr. Shellenberger described in his presentation. He explained that under state law, NMDOT issues its bonds through NMFA. Accordingly, the purpose of the resolution is to authorize the NMFA to take action with NMDOT, its staff and advisors' direction, to issue fixed rate bonds in an amount not to exceed \$234,600,000, with a final maturity date of June 15, 2041, and an interest rate parameter of not to exceed 6%. The resolution implements the authority given to NMDOT through 2021 Regular Legislative Session Senate Bill 121 (SB 121).

Secretary Sandoval recommended adoption of STC Resolution No. 2021-01 (MAR) and stated that at this point it is NMDOT's intent to (1) choose the nine year bonds that will have an approximate interest rate of 1%; and (2) pay off the debt no later than 2030. This concept was

March 25, 2021

discussed with legislators when moving SB 121 through the Session. The intention is not to extend the duration of NMDOT's debt by years.

Mrs. Haas mentioned the different options currently under consideration, including time periods for issuance, interest rates, number of years to pay off, amount of debt service to be paid, and the amount of bond proceeds that will be available for projects. She explained that NMDOT will need to consult with FHWA about amending the existing Memorandum of Understanding between NMDOT and FHWA, and specifically how to structure FHWA's portion of the debt payment each year.

**Chairman Adams asked for a motion to approve STC Resolution No. 2021-01 (MAR) - Authorizing Bond Resolution; Commissioner Chynoweth made a motion to so approve; Commissioner Lundstrom seconded; motion carried unanimously.**

### **Safety Concerns with Large Truck Traffic on NM 14 Through Madrid**

Rick Padilla, P.E., Executive Director of Highway Operations, NMDOT, and Paul Brasher, P.E., District Five Engineer, discussed safety concerns raised by Madrid regarding large trucks, specifically tractor-trailers, traveling on NM 14 through town. NMDOT contracted a consultant engineer to do a study. That study concluded that vehicles over a certain length cannot navigate two curves in Madrid without encroaching onto the shoulder or running across the center line into the opposing traffic lane.

Section 66-7-415 NMSA 1978 authorizes the STC to "impose limitations as to size or weight" on roads and highways within its jurisdiction. Accordingly, NMDOT presented this

matter to the STC to discuss the need for a 60 foot vehicle length restriction on all or part of NM 14 from I-25 to I-40, and to receive input from interested parties. The next step will be to ask Santa Fe County to consider the matter and pass a resolution regarding its recommendation. Thereafter, NMDOT will return to the STC to request its adoption of a resolution accepting or acknowledging the County's resolution and authorizing NMDOT to proceed with the restriction.

Ms. Pamela Ellsworth, Madrid resident and business owner, commented that she has been working with House Speaker Brian Egolf's office and Santa Fe County Commissioner Rudy Garcia since a crash occurred on her property wherein the driver of an overweight truck was killed. There have also been a number of other truck accidents in the area.

### **Secretary's Report**

The Secretary outlined NMDOT's 2021 legislative package, which included nine Senate bills and three House bills. Of the nine Senate bills, eight passed and are currently on the Governor's desk awaiting signature. The only bill that did not pass was NMDOT's Construction Manager General Contractor bill. Other non-agency bills of interest to NMDOT were duplicate bills, Senate Bill 133 (SB 133) and House Bill 325, *Rural Air Service Enhancement Act*. SB 133 passed and, if signed, will provide NMDOT with \$9 million for essential air service in rural areas. NMDOT also helped with House Bill 270, *Autonomous Vehicles*, House Bill 10, *Broadband Development Division* (HB 10), and Senate Bill 93, *Broadband Access & Expansion Act* (SB 93). Both HB 10 and SB 93 will greatly improve broadband access in New Mexico.

NMDOT's budget is over \$1 billion dollars. The operational budget looks great; however, there were a couple of changes that NMDOT did not support. If HB 2, *General Appropriation Act of 2021* (HB 2), is signed by the Governor, NMDOT will receive \$170 million from the General

March 25, 2021

Fund for NMDOT for projects and \$120 million in General Fund money for the Transportation Project Fund, which will go to local municipalities, counties and tribal governments.

Secretary Sandoval mentioned the bonding request presented earlier in this STC meeting. He believes it will generate approximately \$290 to \$300 million dollars' in proceeds. NMDOT staff will meet next week to determine how that money will be spent. Each of the six districts will receive approximately \$45 million to fund one or two major projects. Those projects should be ready to go out to bid within the next 24 to 40 months.

The state will be receiving \$1.6 billion from the new plan that President Biden signed. \$200 million of those funds will be allocated to NMDOT through HB 2, if the Governor signs the bill in its current form. NMDOT also still has \$80 million from the bill that President Trump signed in December. NMDOT will likely use that funding to finish partially completed projects. There are also millions of dollars in capital outlay coming to NMDOT as pass through funds to local entities that will help improve local road conditions.

Secretary Sandoval welcomed Francisco Sanchez as NMDOT's new District Two Engineer and thanked the other applicants who applied. He mentioned that NMDOT is moving forward with hiring other positions and recognized Ricky Serna, the new Director of the State Personnel Office, for his help. The Secretary stressed the importance of NMDOT being able to fill its vacant positions in order to successfully spend the funds it will be receiving.

Chairman Adams asked about the possibility of installing litter awareness signs around the state. Rick Padilla, P.E., Executive Director of Highway Operations, NMDOT, responded that he will have Andrew Gallegos, P.E., Traffic Operations Manager, NMDOT explore the possibilities for new litter signs as part of the new "Toss No Mas" campaign.

**Adjournment**

**Chairman Adams asked for a motion to adjourn the regular meeting at 1:17 p.m.; Commissioner Chynowth made a motion to adjourn the regular meeting; Commissioner Lundstrom seconded. Motion carried unanimously.**



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**Chairman**

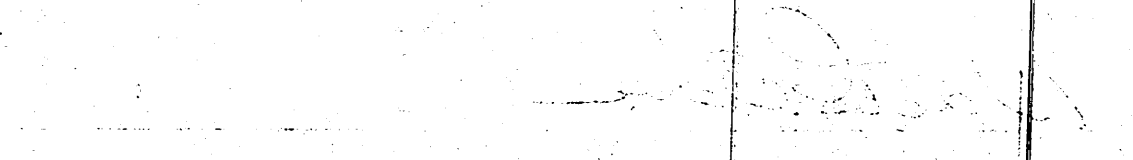
**Walter G. Adams**

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**Secretary**

**Charles Lundstrom**

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