The New Mexico State Transportation Commission (STC or Commission) held a regular meeting on September 26, 2019, at The Village of Milan Recreation Center, Milan, New Mexico. Chairman Adams called the meeting to order at 8:34 a.m. He asked for a roll call to establish a quorum. Jennifer Martinez, Office of the Secretary, NMDOT, proceeded to call the roll. Commissioners Jennifer Sandoval, Bruce Ellis, Walter G. Adams, and Charles Lundstrom were present.

Chairman Adams asked for a moment of silence and offered condolences to the family of former NMDOT employee, Eva Campos, who recently passed away. Her husband, Tommy Campos, presently works for NMDOT. Chairman Adams also asked for a moment of silence for Senator Carlos Cisneros, who also recently passed away.

Approval of the STC Meeting Agenda

Chairman Adams asked for a motion to approve the STC meeting agenda; Commissioner Ellis made a motion to so approve; Commissioner Lundstrom seconded; motion carried unanimously.
Approval of the STC Minutes

Chairman Adams asked for a motion to approve the August 30, 2019 STC Special Meeting minutes; Commissioner Lundstrom made a motion to so approve; Commissioner Ellis seconded; motion carried unanimously.

Introductions

Michael Sandoval, Cabinet Secretary, NMDOT, introduced the elected officials at the STC meeting, and asked NMDOT staff to introduce themselves.

Elected Officials and Delegations:

The Honorable Harry Garcia, New Mexico State Representative, District 69
Billy Moore, Commissioner, McKinley County
The Honorable Helen Dayan, Mayor Pro Tem, Village of Milan
Ellen Baca, Trustee, Village of Milan
The Honorable Felix Gonzales, Mayor, Village of Milan
The Honorable Patricia Lundstrom, New Mexico State Representative, District 9
The Honorable Derrick Lente, New Mexico State Representative, District 65

State Transportation Commissioners Present:

Jennifer Sandoval, Vice-Chair, District One
Bruce Ellis, Commissioner, District Two
Keith Mortensen, Commissioner, District Three (absent with notice)
Walter G. Adams, Chairman, District Four
Vacant, District Five
Charles Lundstrom, Secretary, District Six

NMDOT Staff Present:

Michael Sandoval, Cabinet Secretary
Justin Reese, Deputy Secretary
Kenneth B. Baca, General Counsel
NMDOT Staff
Public Comment

Raymond Concho, Jr., Transportation Planner, Pueblo of Acoma, commented briefly regarding the Local Government Road Fund awards and other funds the Pueblo has received from NMDOT. He also expressed his appreciation to NMDOT for its support on the Local Government Transportation Project Fund (LGTPF) funds recently appropriated by the New Mexico Legislature. He invited the STC to visit some of the Pueblo’s completed projects and briefly discussed the need for support on the Mesa Hill Bridge project. In closing, he invited the STC to hold its District Six meeting next year at the Pueblo.

Brian Jones, Executive Director, Asphalt Pavement Association of New Mexico, commented regarding the Association’s Best of New Mexico awards program. He recently sent a memo to the District Engineers and certain NMDOT staff members regarding the program and requesting submissions.

Jeff Irving, Road Superintendent, McKinley County, expressed his appreciation for a recent $3 million LGTPF award to McKinley County to assist with a bridge replacement project. He thanked Representatives Patricia Lundstrom and Harry Garcia for their support for the LGTPF program, and stated that he hopes the program will continue and funding will be appropriated on an annual basis. He also thanked NMDOT for its cooperation on the Carbon Coal Road project, which is one of McKinley County’s major priorities because of its relationship to economic development. District Six has agreed to be the lead on this major five-mile, four lane road project.

Secretary Sandoval introduced and publically thanked Representative Patricia Lundstrom for her leadership and assistance in helping NMDOT to receive $400 million in General Fund money in the 2019 New Mexico Legislative session.
Representative Lundstrom welcomed the STC and NMDOT staff to the Village of Milan and spoke about the district she represents. She explained that NMDOT is an enterprise fund department, the way the Legislature envisions it in the budgeting process. To her knowledge, NMDOT has never received any General Fund money for operation, which is tragic because when the budget is built and there are increases for expenses like insurance, the expenses must be paid out of NMDOT’s Road Fund, whereas the other departments receive General Fund money for increases. This year, the House Appropriations and Finance Committee appropriated a significant amount of money to NMDOT for transportation projects and hopes to do so again next year. Representative Lundstrom also discussed creating a Transportation Infrastructure Trust Fund. She has asked LFC staff to draft legislation that would be incorporated into the Appropriations Act which would allow for a Trust Fund corpus. The purpose would be to grow a fund that could ultimately be used for state and local government transportation projects. In addition, she mentioned that in the next legislative session she will be reintroducing her public-private partnership bill that received the LFC’s endorsement last year. The bill is specifically for transportation projects and broadband.

The Honorable Harry Garcia, New Mexico State Representative, District 69, thanked NMDOT for its work and funding assistance for projects in his District. He also briefly discussed an issue concerning trash along the highways in Bernalillo County. In response, Jill Mosher, Assistant District Three Engineer, Engineering Support, NMDOT, outlined District Three’s current efforts to address trash clean-up.

Felix Gonzales, Mayor, Village of Milan, asked for NMDOT’s continued support for Village of Milan projects.
A representative of the Pueblo of Laguna (name inaudible on recording), on behalf of the Honorable Wilfred Herrera, Governor, Pueblo of Laguna, greeted the STC and expressed his appreciation for the creation of the LGTPF. He explained that the Pueblo was awarded some of the funds this year. He also thanked District Six Engineer Larry Maynard and his staff for the work they do to keep the roadways safe.

Laura Jaramillo, City Manager, Grants, welcomed the STC and stated how important it is to the local communities that the Commission takes the time to hold meetings in the rural and local communities. She also thanked District Six for its work in the area.

District Six Presentation and Employee Recognition

Larry Maynard, P.E., District Six Engineer, NMDOT, provided an update on the Carbon Coal Road project, which is the District's number one priority. He outlined the details of the project and explained its importance.

Secretary Sandoval commented regarding the Carbon Coal Road Project. He explained that part of the success of this project is contingent upon acquiring some right of way from the State Land Office. NMDOT staff has met with Commissioner Garcia Richard and State Land Office personnel to try to expedite the process. NMDOT hopes to have the right of way secured by the end of the calendar year and will continue to meet with State Land Office staff until the matter is resolved.

County Commissioner Billy Moore commented that work on the Carbon Coal Road project is moving forward but, on behalf of McKinley County, requested that the project be expedited as much as possible.
Mr. Maynard introduced the District Six staff members in attendance at the STC meeting. He followed with a presentation regarding District Six activities, during which he discussed the District’s various projects and maintenance accomplishments. He also reported on the District’s Employee Recognition Program and acknowledged the recent award winners.

**District Six Best Practice - Gallup Patrol**

Larry Maynard, P.E., District Six Engineer, NMDOT, presented the Best Practice Award to the Gallup Patrol for the protective structures the crew created for the District’s gas card reader and magnesium chloride pump. A video was shown to demonstrate the use of the protective structures. Mr. Maynard thereafter introduced the members of the Patrol.

**District Three Best Practice - Welding Shop**

Jill Mosher, P.E., Assistant District Three Engineer, Engineering Support, NMDOT, presented the Best Practice Award to the District’s Welding Shop for its mower shield. A video was shown to demonstrate the use of the device. Ms. Mosher then introduced the staff members of the welding shop, as well as the other District Three employees in attendance at the meeting.

**Staff Briefings**

**FHWA Report**

J. Don Martinez, FHWA, reported that NMDOT obligated all of its federal funds, $43 million of redistributions and approximately $420 million that is going out for projects for FY19. At present, NMDOT can expect the same amount of money for FY20, $377 million from a continuing resolution until a funding bill is passed.
Secretary Sandoval reported that NMDOT has been working on getting $400 million out to all of the projects it has been assigned. To date, over $55 million has been assigned for the LGTPF, which is a great program geared to the rural communities. NMDOT also met with the Legislative Finance Committee (LFC) in an effort to put together a package in case there is surplus money available for transportation this year. NMDOT would like to have as many shelf ready projects as possible. NMDOT would also like to have a plan with recommendations to legislators for the projects that should be funded, which are the most ready and could be the most beneficial. All six district engineers are aware of the need to get projects ready and to identify the top five unfunded projects in their areas. As funds become available, NMDOT needs to be prepared to get the funds out in the field as quickly as possible.

Secretary Sandoval introduced Mr. Justin Reese as one of NMDOT’s new Deputy Secretaries. He stated that he is looking forward to working with Mr. Reese. He also stated that he is fairly confident that by the October STC meeting in Hobbs, NMDOT will have a second Deputy Secretary and a Local Government Liaison, who is to be appointed by the Governor. In closing, he reported that NMDOT is currently in the process of hiring a Chief Engineer.

On behalf of the Commission, Chairman Adams welcomed Mr. Reese to NMDOT. The Chairman asked Secretary Sandoval about the status of increasing NMDOT’s boot, clothing and tool allowances. Secretary Sandoval responded that he believes the tool allowance has already been increased, but will provide a full update at the October STC meeting.
Trash Pick-Up Efforts

Rick Padilla, P.E., State Maintenance Engineer, NMDOT, reported regarding NMDOT’s litter pick-up efforts. NMDOT has been working with the Tourism Department to introduce some new procedures that will piggyback off of the Tourism Department’s “Clean and Beautiful” project. NMDOT kicked off its first event in Santa Fe on Saturday, September 21, 2019. Representatives of the Energy and Minerals and Natural Resources Department, Environment Department, Tourism Department, and NMDOT District Five participated in the removal of approximately 500 pounds of litter from four shoulder miles on NM 14. The next event is scheduled in October in Las Cruces.

Chairman Adams inquired about utilizing the inmate programs to remove trash instead of NMDOT employees. Mr. Padilla responded that he intends to meet with Deputy Franco of the Corrections Department to discuss current options. He also intends to explore the possibility of hiring contractors. A discussion regarding litter fine signage followed.

Spec Committee Update

Rick Padilla, P.E., State Maintenance Engineer, NMDOT, gave a brief update on the recent activities of NMDOT’s Spec Committees. He reported that the NMDOT equipment managers met on August 28, 2019, at the Belen Patrol Yard and discussed (1) the re-introduction of Spec Committees, and (2) the funds NMDOT received for equipment.

Jenifer Block, Ports of Entry Division, NMDOT, indicated that approximately 5 1/2 years ago, former Cabinet Secretary Tom Church believed there was a disconnect between the NMDOT patrol yards and the General Office. He directed Ms. Block and then employee, now STC Chairman, Walter Adams, to visit all 82 patrols to solicit their comments. Essentially the idea was that
if NMDOT could not provide the patrols with additional funds, it could at least give them a voice in order to make sure their equipment was safe and that they were as comfortable as possible in their patrol yards. Topics discussed included equipment issues, patrol yard issues, HR issues, and morale issues. In follow-up to that effort, Ms. Block, Mr. John Kraul, Fleet Equipment Manager, NMDOT, and Mathew Chavez, Fleet Line II Manager, NMDOT, recently visited six patrols and identified certain problems which they reported to Mr. Padilla. Mr. Padilla will be working with the patrols to make improvements. A brief discussion with the District Engineers followed.

**Traffic Safety Division Education Program**

Franklin Garcia, Modal Division Director, NMDOT, provided an overview of the Traffic Safety Division programs, including the funding and enforcement projects, and the Driver Education Program. He explained that per statute, NMDOT is responsible for oversight of the Driver Education Program, which is also regulated by New Mexico Administrative Code rule. Mr. Garcia also explained how NMDOT coordinates with the Public Education Department (PED) to provide driver’s education classes in every public high school in New Mexico, and discussed the NMDOT and PED rules regulating the certification of instructors.

**Finance Reports**

**NMDOT Monthly Financial Report**

Mallery Manzanares, Budget Director and Acting ASD Director, NMDOT, presented the NMDOT operating budget and financial report as of September 1, 2019. Current program vacancy rates are as follows: District One, 11.9%; District Two, 18.7%; District Three, 20.9%; District
Four, 20.7%; District Five, 12.9%; District Six, 10.8%; Highway Operations, 24.0%; Project Design and Construction, 25.7%; Business Support, 17.7%; and Modal, 13.1%. The current budget for Project Design and Construction is $557.5 million, with a remaining balance of $423.7 million; Highway Operations, $251.5 million, with a remaining balance of $188 million; Business Support, $43.6 million, with a remaining balance of $32.5 million; and Modal, $67.6 million, with a remaining balance of $55.2 million. Mrs. Manzanares also discussed NMDOT cash balances and restricted fund balances.

Approval of the FY19/FY20 Local Government Road Fund (LGRF) Financial Hardship Match Waiver Program Funds

Clarissa Martinez, Statewide LGRF Manager, NMDOT, presented and requested approval of the FY19/FY20 LGRF financial hardship match waiver program funds. The LGRF authorizes NMDOT to distribute up to $1 million dollars of LGRF money to municipalities and counties that can demonstrate financial hardship for use of all or a portion of the municipalities’ or counties’ 25% match fund requirement. The FY19/FY20 LGRF match waiver funding request totals $638,204.

Chairman Adams asked for a motion to approve the FY19/FY20 LGRF financial hardship match waiver program funds; Commissioner Lundstrom made a motion to so approve; Commissioner Ellis seconded; motion carried unanimously.

NMDOT Revenue Forecast

Laura Bianchini, Economist, NMDOT, gave a brief report regarding the NMDOT revenue forecast. The July 2019 forecast is one of the two annual forecasts of NMDOT revenues. Another update will be released next January before the FY21 budget is set. This update slightly increases
the FY20 Road Fund recurring revenue expectations by $1.7 million, which amounts to a 12% increase from the January 2019 legislative budget estimate. Almost all of the additional revenue derives from the new Motor Vehicle Excise Tax distribution, approved during the 2019 Legislative Session, which dedicates one percentage point of the tax to District Two to mitigate the emergency road conditions related to oil field activity. FY21 Road Fund recurring revenues are estimated at $452.5 million. This represents a 1.1% or $4.9 million growth from the FY20 budget. Total Road Fund revenues are estimated at $508 million, representing a 13.5% increase. The total Road Fund recurring revenues are expected to remain flat in FY21, and to grow by about 10.5% in FY22, when the Road Fund will start receiving an additional portion of Motor Vehicle Excise Tax revenue.

Approval of NMDOT FY21 Budget Request

Mallery Manzanares, Budget Director and Acting ASD Director, NMDOT, presented and requested the approval of the FY21 Budget Request. The FY21 annual appropriation request totals $961.0 million, a $40.7 million increase from the approved FY20 operating budget. It includes $508.1 million from State Road Fund revenues: $42.4 from restricted fund revenues, $6.4 million from other state agencies, and $404.1 million from federal sources. The request also includes a $42.7 million increase to the Project Design and Construction Program; a $8.4 million decrease to the Highway Operations Program; a $1.7 million increase to the Business Support Program; and a $4.7 million increase to the Modal Program. Mrs. Manzanares outlined the major differences between the FY20 and FY21 budget requests, and the particulars of each NMDOT program.
Chairman Adams asked for a motion to approve the NMDOT FY21 budget request; Commissioner Ellis made a motion to so approve; Commissioner Lundstrom seconded; motion carried unanimously.

Approval of FY20 Budget Adjustment Request (BAR) No. 9 – P565 – Modal

David Harris, Transit and Rail Division Director, NMDOT, presented and requested approval for FY20 BAR No. 9 – P565 – Modal. The BAR is required to establish budget authority in federal grants and services (Category 400) for the Transit Bureau in the amount of $2.65 million to pay for buses, equipment and facilities at public transit agencies statewide, and to provide bus stops that are compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Chairman Adams asked for a motion to approve FY20 BAR No. 9 – P565 – Modal; Commissioner Lundstrom made a motion to so approve; Commissioner Sandoval seconded; motion carried unanimously.

Approval of FY20 BAR No. 10 – P565 – Modal

David Harris, Transit and Rail Division Director, NMDOT, presented and requested approval of FY20 BAR No. 10 – P565 – Modal. The BAR is required to establish budget authority in contractual services (Category 300) for the Transit Bureau in the amount of $625,000, in order to account for revenue collected by the Park and Ride Program, for services provided on behalf of El Paso County, Texas and the Rio Metro Regional Transit District. This funding will be used to pay for the continued operation of NMDOT Park and Ride in FY20.
Chairman Adams asked for a motion to approve FY20 BAR No. 10 – P565 – Modal; Commissioner Ellis made a motion to so approve; Commissioner Sandoval seconded; motion carried unanimously.

**Approval of FY20 BAR No. 11 – P562 – PDC**

Mallery Manzanares, Budget Director and Acting ASD Director, NMDOT, presented and requested approval of FY20 BAR No. 11 – P562 – PDC. The BAR is required to establish budget authority for the FHWA program. It will increase contractual services (Category 300) by $42.5 million, $36.1 million of which is federal funds, and $6.4 million of which is the state match requirement.

Chairman Adams asked for a motion to approve FY20 BAR No. 11 – P562 – PDC; Commissioner Lundstrom made a motion to so approve; Commissioner Ellis seconded; motion carried unanimously.

**Approval of FY 20 BAR No. 12 – P565 – Modal**

Franklin Garcia, Modal Division Director, NMDOT, presented and requested approval of FY20 BAR No. 12 – P565 – Modal. The BAR is required to establish budget authority in contractual services (Category 300) by $800,000 and grants (Category 400) by $200,000.00. These funds will be used for educational proactive marketing/media campaigns and grants for enforcement programs. Traffic Safety fund balance will support BAR No. 12 for 1.0 million.

Chairman Adams asked for a motion to approve FY20 BAR No. 12 – P565 – Modal; Commissioner Lundstrom made a motion to so approve; Commissioner Sandoval seconded; motion carried unanimously.
Rio Metro Regional Transit District (RMRTD) Annual Report Regarding New Mexico Rail

**Runner Express (NMRX)**

Terry Doyle, Transportation Director, RMRTD, presented the NMRX Annual Report. He explained that the Memorandum of Agreement between NMDOT and RMRTD regarding NMRX management, funding and operation, requires RMRTD to provide a report to the STC every year. The report includes information on the NMRX annual operating and capital budgets, annual service plan, the five year capital maintenance/capital improvement plan, NMRX ridership, and performance targets.

**FY19 NMDOT Office of Inspector General (OIG) Annual Report**

Jeff Canney, Inspector General, NMDOT, presented the FY20 NMDOT OIG Annual Report. The report summarizes the objectives and accomplishments of the OIG for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2019. It includes information gathered by the various functional areas of the OIG and outlines the results of numerous internal and external audits, construction audits, investigations and damage claims. Commission Policy 30 (CP 30) serves as the OIG charter, stating the purpose, authority and responsibilities of the OIG. CP 30 was last reviewed and updated at the STC meeting on August 15, 2019. The OIG vision is to be the trusted provider of professional investigative and audit services. The OIG mission is to conduct professional investigations and performance audits to assess risks, improve operations and increase accountability in order to add value to NMDOT.
Approval of Proposed Redesignation of the “George Rinaldi, Sr. Memorial Bridge”

Jill Mosher, P.E., Assistant District Three Engineer, Engineering Support, NMDOT, presented and requested approval of the proposed redesignation of the “George Rinaldi, Sr. Memorial Bridge” and the adoption of related STC Resolution No. 2019-05 (SEP).

On February 22, 1986, the STC’s predecessor, the New Mexico State Transportation Highway Commission, ordered the dedication of former Bridge No. 1736 as the “George Rinaldi, Sr. Memorial Bridge”. Sometime thereafter, the bridge was dedicated. In 1985-1986, Bridge No. 1736 was replaced by two bridges, No. 8537 on US 550 South and No. 8540 on US 550 North. At the request of Mr. Rinaldi’s family, during the 2019 Regular Session of the New Mexico Legislature, the House of Representatives passed House Memorial 9 requesting the STC to rename the “George Rinaldi, Sr. Memorial Bridge” as the “Giovanni Giorgio Rinaldi Bridge”. The proposed STC Resolution redesignates the “George Rinaldi, Sr. Memorial Bridge” as the “Giovanni Giorgio Rinaldi Bridge”.

Ms. Mosher introduced Maria Rinaldi, the great granddaughter of Mr. Rinaldi. Ms. Rinaldi thanked the Honorable Derrick Lente, New Mexico State Representative, District 65, for his help during the Legislative Session. She then read the proposed Resolution aloud to the STC and expressed how grateful her family is for the STC’s consideration of the subject redesignation. Representative Lente thereafter spoke in support of the proposed redesignation.

Chairman Adams asked for a motion to approve the proposed redesignation of the “George Rinaldi, Sr. Memorial Bridge” as the “Giovanni Giorgio Rinaldi Bridge” and to adopt STC Resolution No. 2019-05 (SEP); Commissioner Ellis made a motion to so approve; Commissioner Lundstrom seconded; motion carried unanimously.
Adjournment

Chairman Adams asked for a motion to adjourn the regular meeting at 12:41 p.m.; Commissioner Ellis made a motion to so adjourn the meeting; Commissioner Sandoval seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

[Signature]
Chairman

Walter Adams

[Signature]
Secretary

Charles Lundstrom