

TAB 3

Mid-Region Council of Governments
MID- REGION RURAL TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION (MRRTPO)
SFY 2012/2013 ANNUAL WORK PROGRAM AMENDMENT
ANNUAL REPORT July 1, 2012 – September 30, 2013

The following are functions and task orders that the Mid-Region Council of Governments (MRCOG) will complete in fulfillment of the contract for management of the Mid-Region Rural Transportation Planning Organization (RTPO) for State Fiscal Year (SFY) July 1, 2012 through September 30, 2013. This amendment reflects an adjustment of the Work Program to cover the Federal Fiscal year time frame.

Function 1. RTPO Self-Certification – Federal regulations (23 CFR 450.218) require the New Mexico Department of Transportation (NMDOT) to complete a self-certification process indicating that the statewide transportation planning process is being carried out in accordance with all applicable federal laws and regulations. Since RTPO planning is an integral part of the Department's process, the Mid-Region Council of Governments shall submit an annual self-certification indicating that the Functions and Tasks in this Annual Work Program have been substantially completed as indicated. The self-certification document was appended to the Annual Work Program (AWP) for the State Fiscal year and is due July 15, 2013 with the RTPOs AWP and Budget.

During the fourth quarter, a Self-Certification for the Mid-Region RTPO was developed for submission to NMDOT's GTG unit along with the FFY14 Work Program identified under Task 2.2. These completed materials were provided to NMDOT GTG early in the final period along with the FFY14 Work Program (identified under Task 2.2) early in the final period covered by this Report.

Function 2. Work Program and Reporting – Submit reports consistent with NMDOT timelines and standard format to the NMDOT Government-to-Government Unit

Task 2.1 Submit an Annual Report for SFY 2011/2012 to the NMDOT Government to Government (GTG) Programs Unit by August 15, 2012. This report should be reviewed and accepted by the RTPO Technical Advisory Committee prior to submittal.

The SFY212 Annual Report for the Mid-Region RTPO was submitted to the NMDOT Government to Governments Unit during the first quarter, in early August 2012.

Task 2.2 Review with GTG and submit an approved AWP for SFY 2013/2014 by April 15, 2013. MRCOG should provide RTPO members with an opportunity to review

the draft AWP and provide recommendations for activities and projects they consider significant to the region.

At the direction of NMDOT GTG staff, during the second quarter Mid-Region RTPO staff began developing an extension to the AWP for SFY 2013/2014 with the goal of bringing the AWP into alignment with the Federal Fiscal year. A preliminary draft was submitted to NMDOT GTG staff for review.

Development of the extension to the AWP for SFY 2013/2014 was completed in the third quarter and the amended AWP was formally submitted to NMDOT GTG staff in March.

During the fourth quarter, a draft AWP for FFY2013/2014 was developed and reviewed by GTG staff. The Mid-Region RTPO Committee reviewed the draft AWP at their June 13, 2013 meeting and the approved Annual Work Program for FFY2013/14 was submitted to the NMDOT early in July 2013 along with the Self-Certification document required under Function 1.

- Task 2.3 Submit Quarterly Reports describing in detail the work accomplished by the RTPO during each previous quarter. The reports shall be due to NMDOT by the 25th day of the month following the end of each quarter and shall be included as an informational item on the next RTPO Committee agenda. Under this Work Program amendment, a fifth Quarterly Report will be submitted for the period July 1 through September 30, 2013.

The Mid-Region RTPO SFY12 Quarterly Report was submitted to the NMDOT in early August 2012.

The Mid-Region RTPO SFY13 first Quarterly Report was submitted to the NMDOT in October 2012.

The Mid-Region RTPO SFY13 second Quarterly Report was submitted to the NMDOT in January 2013.

The Mid-Region RTPO SFY13 third Quarterly Report was submitted to the NMDOT in April 2013.

The Quarterly Report for the period April 1 through June 30, 2013 was submitted to NMDOT in July 2013.

The Quarterly Report for the period July 1 through September 30, 2013 will be submitted to NMDOT in October 2013.

Task 2.4 Participate in GTG Desk Audit of New Mexico RPO program. This activity will continue through the July 1 to September 30, 2013 time frame covered by this Amendment.

During the fourth quarter, Mid-Region RTPO staff provided feedback to GTG staff regarding the draft outline for the program reviews and participated in the GTG Desk Audit of the Mid-Region RTPO program in early June.

Function 3. Budget – Develop and manage the RTPO program budget

Task 3.1 Submit an annual budget as part of the AWP. Per the requirements of federal OMB Circular A-87, if the budget contains any Indirect Costs, MRCOG shall attach to the AWP a copy of its most recently approved Indirect Cost Allocation Plan. An amended budget that reflect FFY13 funding is attached to this Work Program Amendment.

An update to MRCOG's Indirect Cost Allocation Plan was initiated late in the first quarter and submitted to NMDOT during the second quarter.

During the third quarter, an amended budget for FFY2013 was submitted to NMDOT as part of the AWP extension amendment provided under Task 2.2.

During the fourth quarter, a budget for FFY2013/2014 was developed for inclusion with the FFY14 AWP, and submitted to NMDOT GTG staff in July as part of the Annual Work Program provided under Task 2.2.

Task 3.2 Submit invoices to the GTG concurrent with submittal of Quarterly Reports (See Task 2.3). Under this Work Program amendment, a fifth invoice will be submitted for the period July 1 through September 30, 2013.

An invoice for the fourth quarter of SFY12 was submitted with the Fourth Quarterly Report during the first quarter of SFY13.

An invoice for the first quarter of SFY13 was submitted with the First Quarterly Report during the second quarter of SFY13.

An invoice for the second quarter of SFY13 was submitted with the Second Quarterly Report during the third quarter of SFY13.

An invoice for the third quarter of SFY13 was submitted with the Third Quarterly Report during the fourth quarter of SFY13.

An invoice for the fourth quarter was submitted to GTG concurrent with submittal of the Fourth Quarterly Report during the July-September 2013 timeframe.

An invoice for the final period of time covered by this Report will be submitted with the final Quarterly Report in October 2013.

- Task 3.3 Implement and monitor program expenditures in relation to the annual budget. Inform GTG of adjustments to any line items when such adjustments increase or decrease the line item by at least 10% or for any single expenditure totaling \$500.00 or more. This activity will continue through the July 1 to September 30, 2013 time frame covered by this Amendment.

Activities related to this task were ongoing throughout the period covered by this Annual Report.

Function 4. RTPO Management – Manage the RTPO as an Interactive Forum

- Task 4.1 Organize and facilitate all meetings of the RTPO.

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4.1.1 Document the RTPOs public participation process including, but not limited to, procedures the RTPO uses to comply with the *New Mexico Open Meetings Act* [NMSA 1978, Sections 10-51-1, *et. seq.*] and 23 CFR 450. This activity will continue through the July 1 to September 30, 2013 time frame covered by this Amendment.

Activities related to this task were ongoing throughout the period covered by this Annual Report.

4.1.2 Per the New Mexico Open Meetings Act and 23 CFR 450.210, provide public notice (including publication of ads in the Albuquerque Journal) for all official RTPO Committee meetings, including those that occur during the period covered by this Work Program Amendment, July 1, 2013 through September 30, 2013.

The appropriate public notices were provided as required throughout the period covered by this Report.

- 4.1.3 Provide RTPO Committee members, the appropriate NMDOT District Engineers, and GTG with meeting agendas and information packets no later than seven (7) calendar days in advance of RTPO Committee meetings. This activity will continue through the July 1 to September 30, 2013 time frame covered by this Amendment.

Agendas and information packets were provided in the appropriate time frames for the RTPO workshops in August 2012 and November 2012.

Agendas and information packets were provided in the appropriate time frames for the RTPO meetings on October 11, 2012, December 13, 2012, February 14, 2013, April 11, 2013, June 13, 2013, and August 8, 2013.

Task 4.2 Manage the membership of the RTPO.

- 4.2.1 At least annually, provide all eligible member entities (municipalities, counties, tribal governments, and land grants in the RTPO region) with the opportunity to appoint or confirm a representative and alternates to the RTPO Committee. This activity will continue through the July 1 to September 30, 2013 time frame covered by this Amendment.

During the first quarter, Mid-Region RTPO staff reviewed the newly-released MAP-21 legislation and noted that the revised RTPO requirements expanded the type of entities eligible to participate in the Mid-Region RTPO. This fact, and the revision of the RTPO boundaries as a result of the establishment of the Los Lunas UZA, required discussions with the current RTPO Committee members and a revision to the RTPO Committee Bylaws to modify the Committee membership structure as well as the RTPO boundaries. These events took place during the second quarter. Subsequently, staff prepared a revision to the RTPO Committee Bylaws these discussions and revised the RTPO boundaries. At their first meeting in the fourth quarter, the RTPO Committee took formal action to modify the Bylaws.

Following this action, staff revised the list of eligible communities to reflect the new boundaries and sent letters to those communities that explained the changes that had been made and requested them to formally confirm their representatives and alternates. The letter was accompanied by a form for communities to use to name their representatives.

In addition, entities newly eligible to participate as Associate members of the Committee were sent letters inviting them to apply to join the Committee. Three organizations responded to this invitation and the Committee formally added them as Associate members at the June 13 meeting. The new Associate (non-voting) members are the Estancia Valley Economic Development Association, the Step Into Cuba Health Alliance, and the Manzano Land Grant.

The RTPO Committee roster was revised to reflect these various changes during the final quarter covered by this Report.

- 4.2.2 Keep, and update as needed, a list of RTPO Committee members and contact information, and provide a copy of the list to GTG, member entities, and other regular participants. This activity will continue through the July 1 to September 30, 2013 time frame covered by this Amendment.

Activities related to this task are ongoing. In addition, RTPO staff undertook a major revision of the Committee roster following the completion of activities described in Task 4.2.1. This revised roster was provided to the Committee and NMDOT staff in subsequent meeting agenda packets and was posted on the Mid-Region RTPO internet web site.

Task 4.3 Agency Coordination.

4.3.1 Coordinate the RTPO's planning program with other RTPOs and any MPOs or other agencies impacted by activities contained in the AWP. This activity will continue through the July 1 to September 30, 2013 time frame covered by this Amendment.

During the fourth quarter of the SFY12, the US Census Bureau designated the Valencia County portion of the Mid-Region RTPO as a newly-defined urbanized area, the Los Lunas UZA. Subsequently, Mid-Region RTPO staff assisted Mid-Region MPO staff in providing information to the communities about this designation, its implications, and the decisions it required from the affected communities. As a result, during the first quarter, the Valencia County Commission and the Councils of the Village of Bosque Farms, Town of Peralta, and City of Belen all voted to join the Albuquerque Metropolitan Planning Area rather than attempting to establish a separate Los Lunas Planning Organization. Mid-Region RTPO staff continued to assist with the transition during the remainder of the fiscal year. During the second quarter, this assistance included providing support during the AMPA PIF Workshops (see Task 6.2), coordinating a meeting between MRCOG's Executive Director and newly-elected County Commissioner Alicia Aguilar, and participating in the boundary smoothing discussion between AMPA staff and the Valencia County communities. During the third quarter, support included following and reporting back on land use discussions in the County regarding the siting of a new hospital, coordinating a meeting and follow-up presentation to the organizing committee of the newly incorporated Rio Communities, meeting with a newly-elected Torrance County Commissioner, and continuing to provide support to the Village of Los Lunas right-of-way acquisition activities for the river crossing alignment. During the final portion of the period covered by this Report, this assistance included RTPO staff participation in the Valencia County Functional Classification Workshop described under Task 8.1.

Also during the first quarter, staff:

- Participated in the NM RTPO information table at the Governor's Housing Summit in Albuquerque in late August
- Coordinated the presentation of information about the Complete Streets program at the RPO Quarterly Roundtable during the second quarter, which was accomplished at the November 29th Roundtable in Silver City

- Participated in the discussion regarding the potential revision of the Mid-Region and other State RTPO boundaries. This issue was discussed with the pertinent RTPOs both at the August RTPO Quarterly Roundtable and at a subsequent New MARC meeting in Albuquerque.
- Provided technical support to the effort to develop a Short Range Plan for the Rio Metro RTD. This included participating in public meetings in the RTPO area and transmitting comments from residents in those areas to Rio Metro staff.

During the second quarter, RTPO staff participated in meetings between AMPA staff and Sandoval County communities regarding how best to 'smooth out' the AMPA boundaries in relation to the communities' needs, as they also made the transition from RTPO to AMPA status.

During the third quarter, coordination with other RTPOs during this quarter included development of labels for toy vehicles distributed as part of Legislative Transportation Day activities, as well as providing information to the Legislators Guide discussed under Task 4.4. A copy of the Mid-Region RTPO PIF form and scoring sheet, along with a brief description of the scoring and prioritization process, was provided to the NW RTPO for their use in refining their PIF and process. RTPO staff also assisted in arranging for the joint Statewide MPO/RPO meeting regarding the NM Transportation Alternatives Program Guidance and process held in April at MRCOG's offices.

The Mid-Region RTPO and Mid-Region MPO jointly sponsored a two-day training workshop in May to provide member agencies with information regarding the TAP process and application forms, and provide an opportunity for in-depth discussion regarding specific project proposals.

During the fourth quarter, RTPO staff participated in discussions with a Las Cruces official regarding a joint MPO/RPO Summit of Policy Committee which was subsequently held in Albuquerque in mid-September. Mid-Region RTPO staff participated in the public portion of this meeting.

Throughout the year, additional coordination with Mid-Region MPO and Rio Metro RTD staff and activities was ongoing and included RTPO staff attendance at MPO and RTD meetings, as appropriate.

4.3.2 Actively participate with NMDOT and other RTPOs in quarterly RTPO Roundtables and special meetings, as needed, including those that occur during the period covered by this Work Program Amendment, July 1, 2013 through September 30, 2013.

In response to this task, Mid-Region RTPO staff participated in the following RTPO Quarterly Roundtables:

- Clovis NM, August 2012
- Silver City, NM, November 2012

- Santa Fe, NM, March, 2013
- Laguna, NM, June 2013

In addition, Mid-Region RTPO Staff provided assistance to NMDOT Planning staff in arranging for a venue for the statewide Joint MPO/RTPO meeting called by NMDOT early in the first quarter of FFY14.

Staff also organized and developed the agenda for the RTPO Quarterly Roundtable scheduled for the Mid-Region in conjunction with the statewide Joint MPO/RTPO meeting early in the first quarter of FFY14.

Task 4.4 Outreach Activities.

4.4.1 Engage in outreach activities and provide citizens and other transportation stakeholders with reasonable opportunities to participate in RTPO processes per 23 CFR 450. This activity will continue through the July 1 to September 30, 2013 time frame covered by this Amendment.

Activities related to this task are ongoing throughout the year. Specific activities during this year included:

- Work described in Tasks 8.3 and 8.5
- Staff support to the Salt Missions Trail Scenic Byway Committee. This assistance to the Scenic Byway Committee builds good will in the community and increases the visibility of the RTPO in this portion of the region. It included:
 - Regular updates to the Salt Missions Trail Facebook page and the Salt Missions Trail blog post regarding events along the Byway.
 - A press release regarding the newly-developed Byway logo
 - Presentations to the communities along the trail about the new logo as well as conceptual discussion about incorporating the logo into an upcoming signage effort along the trail.
 - Coordination with NMDOT, Bernalillo County, and Santa Fe County staff regarding the proposed signage project.

RTPO outreach activities occurred in conjunction with these Salt Missions Trail Scenic Byway presentations, as opportunities arose at the Mountainair and Willard presentations to also discuss the RTPO process and the value of participating in that process. Discussions regarding the newly-identified Transportation Alternative Program (TAP) also occurred at these meetings, as well as at presentations in Edgewood, Estancia, and Moriarty.

Outreach to transportation stakeholders during the year also included:

- Coordination of a meeting between the MRCOG Executive director, newly-elected Torrance County Commissioner Leroy Candelaria, and RTPO staff. This provided an opportunity to re-introduce the

Commissioner to MRCOG's efforts in general and RTPO activities in particular.

- Participation in staffing the Statewide RTPO booth at the NM Association of Counties Legislative Conference in January 2013
- Meetings with Zia Pueblo and Jemez Pueblo staff to identify their transportation project priorities and encourage participation in Mid-Region RTPO meetings. As a result, staff representatives from both Pueblos began attending RTPO Committee meetings on a regular basis.
- A meeting with the Village of Encino administration to encourage the Village to participate in RTPO activities and to identify issues of concern to the Village that could be addressed through MRCOG services
- A meeting with the mayor of Cuba to discuss the Town's participation in the RTPO process as well as a potential Transportation Alternatives Program project

Staff provided information to the North Central COG regarding Mid-Region RTPO legislators and communities and representative RTIPR projects. This information was incorporated into the RPO Legislators Guide that was provided to the State legislators as part of the Legislative Transportation Day in January 2013.

Following approval of the modified Mid-Region MPO/RPO boundaries, staff revised the RTPO brochure and website to reflect the changes and in preparation for initiating meetings with the remaining communities to encourage participation.

As part of MRCOG's ongoing effort to ensure a transparent decision-making process, the RTPO Committee adopted an Open Meetings Resolution that reflects current MRCOG practice and Federal and State law. It is anticipated that an update to this resolution will be adopted on an annual basis in forthcoming years.

4.4.2 In conjunction with the RTPO members and NMDOT liaison to the RTPO, develop a list of entities to whom RTPO staff expect to present information during the coming Federal fiscal year regarding RTPO planning processes and the importance of being actively involved. In determining who to target, the highest consideration should be given to newly elected officials, potential member governments, requests from entities, and entities to whom RTPO staff have not presented in two or more years. This activity will continue through the July 1 to September 30, 2013 time frame covered by this Amendment.

Activities related to this task are scheduled throughout the year in response to election results at the county, municipal, and tribal levels. Identification of specific presentations takes place following the fall and spring election cycles at the county and municipal levels and the December tribal elections.

Another factor that plays into the communities targeted is the attendance record for that communities' representative at committee meetings. Staff maintains an attendance spreadsheet and uses this information to determine whether and when a community would benefit from a discussion regarding the RTPO and the benefits of participating. As a result of this analysis, RTPO staff provided information during the fourth quarter to several of the entities targeted for presentations (Encino, Willard, Mountainair, and Cuba). Offers for presentations were also proffered to San Ysidro and Jemez Springs.

In addition, during the final portion of the year, staff reached out to the newly-appointed mayor of Estancia and arranged a meeting with MRCOG and RTPO staff to inform her of MRCOG activities, encourage her to participate in RTPO meetings, and gather information regarding Estancia projects and priorities.

Function 5. Technical Support –_Provide technical support to and facilitate opportunities for skill development for governments in the RTPO region

Task 5.1 Facilitate training and development for RTPO communities.

5.1.1 Assist NMDOT with the Local Technical Assistance Program (LTAP) by informing member entities of LTAP and other training opportunities and encouraging participation. This activity will continue through the July 1 to September 30, 2013 time frame covered by this Amendment.

During the first quarter, Mid-Region RTPO staff provided information to the Mid-Region RTPO distribution list regarding:

- FHWA summaries of the MAP-21 legislation available online
- A free NM LTAP webinar on Adaptive Signal Control Technology
- The NM Infrastructure Finance Conference in Taos in late October
- A free NM LTAP training session in September in Las Vegas, NM titled "How to Effectively Manage Contracts and Grants"
- An NHI training on utility coordination for highway projects

During the second quarter, Mid-Region RTPO staff provided information to the Mid-Region RTPO distribution list regarding:

- A free October 18 webinar regarding GIS tools for linking transportation and natural resource planning that was sponsored by NHI Innovations
- A free "Developing Effective Grant Proposals Workshop" in Espanola sponsored by NM LTAP
- The 2012 ITS New Mexico Annual meeting in mid-November
- The eCivis program to which MRCOG had recently subscribed

During the third quarter, Mid-Region RTPO staff provided information to the Mid-Region RTPO distribution list regarding:

- An FHWA webinar titled "50 Ways to Lose Your Money" about the right-of-way acquisition process

- The following NHI web-based trainings
 - Crash Modification Factors
 - Highway Safety Improvement Program Evaluation Process
 - Application of Crash Modification Factors
 - Introduction to NEPA and Transportation Decision-making
- An LTAP-sponsored Gravel Roads Academy New Mexico Tour early in the fourth quarter
- An LTAP-sponsored Bicycle Facility Design Workshop in mid-May
- A free webinar in early April regarding accessing funds for bicycle and pedestrian projects under MAP-21, and sponsored by the League of American Bicyclists and the Pedestrian and Bicycle Information Center.
- NM Environment Department Workshop about Stream Restoration Principles and Transportation Maintenance

In support of the LTAP-sponsored Project Inception to Completion Training planned for mid-April, Mid-Region RTPo staff provided recommendations regarding key RTPo community members to invite to that training.

In addition, during the third quarter, targeted information was provided to the tribal communities in the RTPo area regarding:

- Offerings from the Four Corners Tribal Technical Assistance Program
- A planning exchange webinar for tribal transportation planning

During the fourth quarter, information was provided to the Mid-Region RTPo distribution list regarding:

- A Virtual Summit on High Friction Surfaces and Intersections/Interchange Geometrics on April 4
- Free online webinars regarding
 - TIGER 2013, on May 3 and May 6
 - Systemic Safety Project Selection Tool and Potential Applications for Pedestrian Safety on May 28 sponsored by the FHWA and the Pedestrian and Bicycle Information Center
 - Traffic Management for Emergency Incidents at the NMDOT General Offices on June 19
 - Mining National Data for Information on Walking and Bicycling hosted by MRCOG on June 19
 - Innovations in Non-Destructive Testing for Deep Foundations- Thermal Integrity Profiler on June 27
- The following NHI Seminars
 - Performing Pre-construction Road Safety Audits
 - Local Public Agency Real Estate Acquisition

During the fourth quarter, targeted information was also provided to the tribal communities regarding the portions of the Planning Exchange Webinar series

for tribes on Financial Planning (June 13), Partnering (July 22), and Project Prioritization (August 19). These webinars were sponsored by the FHWA Office of Planning and Federal Lands Planning.

During the July-September 2013 time period, information was provided to the Mid-Region RTPO distribution list regarding the following opportunities:

- Web-based training titled "Introduction to Highway Federal Aid"
- An NHI webinar titled "FRP Composite Bridge Decking" scheduled for July 23
- A July 25 webcast regarding the US Supreme Court land use decision in *Koontz vs. St. Johns River Water Management District*. MRCOG hosted the webcast site for this event.
- A July 30-31 Project Management and LPA for Inception to Completion workshop sponsored by LTAP
- "Principles of Evacuation Planning Tutorial" (a web based training) sponsored by NHI
- ADA Technical Training Courses regarding designing and constructing ADA facilities scheduled around the State in August
- The Association of Pedestrian and Bicycle Professionals Webinar titled "Getting Better Data for Decisions: Improving Data Collection and Outcomes" hosted by MRCOG on August 21
- A Low Cost ITS Solutions for Local and Rural Roads webinar sponsored by the FHWA Office of Safety
- The Every Day Counts webinar on the Locally Administered Federal-Aid Projects Initiative on September 24
- An NHI web conference titled "Alternative Contracting Methods: Deployment from EDC2 Summits Until Now - Where Are We?"
- A three-part web-conference training in early to mid October titled "Principles and Practices for Enhancement Maintenance Management Systems" sponsored by NHI

In addition, during this quarter, an FHWA briefing memo was forwarded to the RTPO Committee regarding the differing requirements for ADA when a roadway is resurfaced.

5.1.2 Assist members to identify technical training needs and work with GTG, LTAP, or other entities to meet those needs. This activity will continue through the July 1 to September 30, 2013 time frame covered by this Amendment.

During the final quarter covered by this report, a discussion at the August RTPO Committee meeting regarding the upcoming meeting schedule identified a need for training about the project funding process under MAP 21. Staff expects to initiate development of this training during the first quarter of FFY14.

Task 5.2 Provide data and technical support to RTPO members for transportation planning, project identification, and project development. This activity will

continue through the July 1 to September 30, 2013 time frame covered by this Amendment.

During the first quarter, Mid-Region RTPO staff reviewed and commented on the 2011 Traffic Flow Maps for the rural counties prior to their publication. Following publication, information regarding the maps' availability was provided to the RTPO distribution list. Physical distribution of the maps occurred early in the second quarter, at the October RTPO meeting. In addition, the maps were uploaded to the RTPO web page and an electronic notification of their availability was provided to the RTPO distribution list.

During the second quarter, RTPO staff

- Acted as liaison between the Town of Edgewood and MRCOG traffic counting staff to arrange for pedestrian and traffic counts on Dinkle Road, in preparation for Edgewood's submittal of a Highway Safety Improvement Program project application for that facility.
- Provided technical assistance to Sandoval County in their pursuit of functional classification modifications for key roadways in the county. This included meeting with County staff and their consultant, providing information about the functional classification process, and acting as a liaison to accomplish traffic data collection in support of the County's applications.

During the third quarter, Gwyneth Duncan, NM Environmental Section, was invited to provide a presentation at the April 2013 RTPO Committee meeting regarding the environmental review process and the newly revised categorical exclusion checklist for transportation projects.

During the fourth quarter, staff

- Provided assistance to Estancia and Edgewood as they developed submittal packages for TAP projects
- Provided information about TAP project eligibility to the community of Cuba
- Worked with a Torrance County Commissioner to obtain more detailed crash data for NM41, and processed this data in an effort to pinpoint key portions of the roadway with crash histories that could be addressed as part of Highway Safety Improvement Program projects
- Acted as a liaison between NMDOT Safety program staff and Jemez Pueblo staff to clarify that a project on NM4 in the Pueblo is eligible for HSIP funds.

During the final quarter covered by this report

- Printed versions of the 2012 Traffic Flow Maps for the counties in the RTPO were distributed to Committee members at the August 2013 meeting. These maps were also posted on-line at the MRCOG's internet web site. An announcement of their availability was provided electronically to the RTPO distribution list.

- RTPO staff obtained 2011 crash data during this quarter for Torrance, Sandoval, and Santa Fe Counties and reduced the data to those locations in the Mid-Region RTPO. This data was further refined, analyzed, and combined with previous year crash data to produce a list of locations with multiple crash histories. This information will be valuable to the RTPO communities when requesting Federal funds, including Highway Safety Improvement Program funds.
- Staff responded to an expressed concern by the mayor of Moriarty regarding the safety of high school students crossing NM41. RTPO staff approached the Moriarty administration with the offer to complete pedestrian counts at the identified intersections. This data collection is anticipated to occur early in the first quarter of FFY14.

Task 5.3 Provide information to members about funding opportunities, and assist members to identify projects that may be eligible for transportation funding from federal or other sources. This activity will continue through the July 1 to September 30, 2013 time frame covered by this Amendment.

During the first quarter,

- The Torrance County Manager requested assistance in identifying funding to pave a residential road in the county with uncertain ownership. Mid-Region RTPO staff provided suggestions, which were unfortunately extremely limited given the questionable status of the facility. During the remainder of the year, staff continued to monitor the County's efforts to determine ownership of this facility.
- Staff provided a letter of support for a UNM Prevention Research Center application for Centers for Disease Control funding for a Community Transportation Grant Small Communities program. The application proposed to extend the Step Into Cuba Program model into other small communities in Sandoval and Rio Arriba Counties.
- Mid-Region RTPO staff provided information to the RTPO distribution list regarding a Safe Routes to School honoraria opportunity from NMDOT

During the second quarter, RTPO staff invited Steve Eagan, the NMDOT Safety Program coordinator, to the December RTPO meeting to discuss the newly-issued call for HSIP projects and the types of projects that would be eligible for that program. Members of the AMPA Transportation Coordinating Committee were invited to attend this portion of the meeting in order to gain insight into the HSIP program. These participants then adjourned into another meeting space to discuss more technical details of the program in relation to specific projects.

Also during the second quarter, information was provided to the Mid-Region RTPO distribution list regarding:

- \$23 million in grant opportunities from EPA, NEA, EDA and others
- The Statewide TAP Funds distribution process as established by NMDOT and clarified by NMDOT Planning staff

During the third quarter,

- Information regarding New Mexico's portion of TAP funding and the status of the development of the TAP project identification and prioritization process was provided to the RTPO Committee at their February meeting.
- Staff worked with the Pueblo of Jemez and the State Traffic Safety Engineer to identify the necessary data for submitting an HSIP project to address pedestrian crossing issues on NM4 near the alternative high school and the school administrative complex.
- Information was provided to the tribes in the RTPO area regarding the following opportunities. This information was also shared with Ron Shutiva, the NMDOT Tribal liaison, for potential distribution statewide.
 - Offerings from the Four Corners Tribal Technical Assistance Program
 - Grant opportunities focused on providing Native American Communities with access to financial capital as well as extension education programs on tribal lands
 - HazMat safety planning

During the fourth quarter, information was provided to the Mid-Region RTPO distribution list regarding:

- The NOFA for the FFY2013 round of TIGER grants
- Potential funding from Easter Seals Project Action for technical assistance to support accessible transportation efforts
- The solicitation for FFY15 FTA Letters of Intent
- The Safe Routes to School call for projects for FFY14 funds
- The Transportation Alternatives Program call for projects from the Mid-Region RTPO staff

Assistance to communities under this Task during the fourth quarter also included providing a letter of support to Sandoval County as part of their TIGER grant application for rehabilitation of County Road 11 and reconstruction of three bridges on that road.

During the final quarter covered by this report, information was provided:

- To the RTPO members regarding the just-released Federal Lands Access Program call for projects late in the quarter. The funding call was specific to Federal lands in New Mexico.
- To the tribal communities in the RTPO regarding the release of a NOFA for Tribal Transportation Safety Funding and webinars related to that announcement

Task 5.4 Conduct or participate in corridor studies, transportation-related subarea plans, and regional and local multi-modal and intermodal planning activities affecting RTPO governments. This activity will continue through the July 1 to September 30, 2013 time frame covered by this Amendment.

During the first quarter, staff began transitioning its support to the Salt Missions Trail Scenic Byway project from a Scenic Byway-funded project to an ongoing planning activity with support from the Mid-Region RTPO staff. This included establishment of a co-editor for the Salt Missions Trail blog and streamlining the committee meeting effort for the Byway. This transition was completed during the second quarter. As part of the ongoing support for this project, development of a logo for the Byway was completed and next steps for its implementation were identified.

During the third quarter, support to the Salt Missions Trail Scenic Byway Committee continued, with meetings in February and March, development of a prototype sign, and implementation of a strategy for informing the communities and Chambers of Commerce about the logo while requesting their support in its use on their materials and internet web sites. Also during this quarter, staff began participating in the Relive the Route (RETRO) planning effort for the portion of Old Route 66 that exists in Torrance County.

During the final quarter covered by this report, staff provided information to Dr. Alf Simon and a group of five graduate students at the UNM School of Planning and Architecture regarding the Town of Moriarty in support of their effort to develop a plan for Moriarty as a New Mexico Main Street Frontier Community. Staff also attended the Relive the Route (RETRO) meeting where the students presented their findings and recommendations, and continued to monitor RETRO activities.

Task 5.5 Develop, update, and maintain transportation databases as a resource to assess needs and monitor project development. This activity will continue through the July 1 to September 30, 2013 time frame covered by this Amendment.

Activities related to this task are ongoing throughout the year and are closely coordinated with the AMPA transportation data collection and database maintenance. Data collected under this task was provided to the RTPO Committee members under Tasks 5.2.

Function 6. Rural Transportation Improvement Program – Develop the Rural Transportation Improvement Program Recommendations (RTIPR) consistent with State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) protocols

Task 6.1 Establish and implement a process for RTPO members to submit and present Project Identification Forms (PIFs) to the RTPO Committee for review and prioritization. Coordinate the timeline with NMDOT District Engineers to ensure

adequate time for reviewing project feasibility. Ensure that RTPO members are fully informed of the process and that pertinent forms and information are readily available to them. Preparation for this activity in FFY14 will begin during the time frame covered by this Amendment.

During the first and second quarters, RTPO staff created a preliminary update of the Mid-Region RTPO PIF to reflect MAP-21 requirements and then completed a final update to reflect modifications to the NMDOT PIF. In addition, staff established an RTPO timeline for the review and prioritization of PIFs for the 2013 STIP cycle contingent on potential changes to NMDOT STIP timelines in response to MAP-21.

During the second quarter, the revised PIF was released as part of the call for RTIPR project proposals. The call for projects was announced via electronic notification to the RTPO distribution list, a press release, and a web page announcement on the MRCOG home page. The November 13, 2012 RTPO workshop focused on the changes to project eligibility as a result of MAP-21 and on the timeline for submitting and processing PIFs.

Following the October 2012 RTPO call for projects, the NMDOT announced a call for Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) projects. This information was provided to RTPO members and the Mid-Region RTPO RTIPR development process was amended to incorporate the Safety project proposals. The pertinent forms and information for the RTIPR process, including the HSIP project forms and supplementary materials, were uploaded to the Mid-Region RTPO web page and the RTPO distribution list was informed electronically of their availability.

The NMDOT District Engineers in the RTPO area were invited to provide presentations at the December 13, 2012 RTPO meeting regarding District outlooks and plans for the coming fiscal year. This provided an opportunity for discussion with the communities about District issues while also informing District staff about the RTIPR process and RTPO community concerns.

During the third quarter, five Project Identification Forms were received from communities across the RTPO area. These PIFs were shared in a timely manner with pertinent NMDOT District staff. The project presentation and scoring process was completed by the Committee in February 2013, and the resulting prioritization was incorporated into the RTIPR. Following review by the Committee, the RTIPR was finalized and distributed to GTG staff and the NMDOT districts. The "Zipper" meetings were also held early in the fourth quarter, as discussed under Task 6.3.

During the fourth quarter, Mid-Region RTPO staff provided comments to NMDOT regarding the proposed Transportation Alternative Program (TAP) project identification process and administered that process in the Mid-

Region. The pertinent forms and information were provided at the RTPO meeting in April as part of a presentation from NMDOT staff, and were also provided via email and on the Mid-Region RTPO website. The deadline for proposals was June 28. Three proposals were received and reviewed at the August 2013 RTPO Committee meeting.

During the final period covered by this report, RTPO Staff completed implementation of the TAP process. This included ensuring that pertinent forms and information were provided to RTPO members and providing copies of the resulting proposals to the pertinent NMDOT District and Planning staff. RTPO staff also managed the process for review and prioritization of the proposals and ensured that the results of that effort were provided to the NMDOT Planning staff in a complete and timely manner. Staff subsequently acted as liaison between the proposing communities and NMDOT staff regarding details in the project proposals.

- Task 6.2 Assist RTPO members to develop PIFs and follow the appropriate process for including projects in the Mid-Region RTIPR. Preparation for this activity in FFY14 will begin during the time frame covered by this Amendment.

Planning for this activity was initiated in the first quarter for implementation in the second quarter. During the second quarter, RTPO staff acted as liaison between the Town of Edgewood and MRCOG traffic counting staff to arrange for pedestrian and traffic counts on Dinkle Road, in preparation for Edgewood's submittal of a Highway Safety Improvement Project application for that facility. RTPO staff also participated in three MPO workshops for the MPO PIFs, to provide support to the Los Lunas UZA communities as they transitioned into the AMPA process.

During the third quarter, RTPO staff provided assistance to the consultants working with the Town of Edgewood and the Village of Estancia to develop the PIFs submitted by the entities. The Edgewood and Torrance County submittals both included traffic count data collected by the MRCOG traffic counting program. The projects were included in the RTIPR.

During the fourth quarter, as well as the final period covered by this Report, staff provided assistance to Mid-Region RTPO communities seeking to submit projects for TAP funding, as described under Task 5.2. Three proposals were submitted and ultimately included in the RTIPR.

- Task 6.3 During the month of March, coordinate and co-facilitate District RTIPR ("zipper") meetings with GTG, the appropriate District, and appropriate RTPOs. Notify the appropriate GTG liaison of the dates, times, and locations for these "zipper" meetings. Submit the prioritized list to GTG, the District

Engineers, and the relevant RTPOs within ten days of the District prioritization meeting.

During the third quarter, RTPO staff coordinated with NMDOT Districts 5 and 6 and the pertinent RTPO organizations to set and facilitate the Zipper meetings for the Districts, which were held in the fourth quarter. Mid-Region RTPO staff participated in meetings at NMDOT District 5 and NMDOT District 6, and provided comments to the pertinent RTPO staff persons following the meetings to ensure that the record reflected the discussion at the Zipper meetings. The Mid-Region RTIPR was modified as a result of information received at the Zipper meetings, and the amended RTIPR was distributed to the RTPO membership and posted on the webpage.

- Task 6.4 Provide assistance to RTPO member agencies for STIP amendments, as needed to ensure compliance with the STIP Policies and Procedures. This activity will continue through the July 1 to September 30, 2013 time frame covered by this Amendment.

No activity related to this task was required during the period covered by this Report.

- Task 6.5 Consistent with 18 NMAC 31.2.9, provide assistance to remaining Scenic Byway projects in the Mid-Region RTPO area and facilitate those efforts with the New Mexico Scenic Byway Coordinator. This activity will continue through the July 1 to September 30, 2013 time frame covered by this Amendment.

During the second quarter, staff drafted revised language for this task in response to MAP-21 and as part of the effort to revise the Work Program to bring it into alignment with the Federal Fiscal year, as described in Task 2.2. This language was submitted during the third quarter as part of the Annual Work Program extension package, as described in Task 2.2.

During the fourth quarter, the Mid-Region RTPO received official notification that the Salt Missions Trail Scenic Byway project had been completed and closed.

- Task 6.6 Facilitate prioritization of Public Transportation Program applications for the Mid-Region RTPO area in response to the state-wide prioritization schedule established by NMDOT Transit and Rail Section staff, and submit the results in accordance with that schedule. Include the results in the Mid-Region RTPO RTIPR. Preparation for this activity in FFY14 will begin during the time frame covered by this Amendment.

During the first quarter, FTA Grant applications were received from NMDOT Transit and Rail Section staff and processed for distribution to the RTPO

Committee members. The October 11, 2012 meeting of the RTPO Committee during the second quarter was dedicated to reviewing and scoring the applications. Since the majority of the applicants serve areas that cross the MPO/RPO boundary, this meeting was held in conjunction with representatives of the MPO Transportation Advisory Committee. This co-meeting reduced duplication of presentations on the part of the applicants and also facilitated coordination of the recommendation from the Mid-Region area. The results of this activity were provided to NMDOT Transit Bureau staff.

During the fourth quarter, activities related to this task included providing information to the RTPO distribution list regarding the deadline for Letters of Intent for submissions for FFY15 grants and monitoring the discussion at the Transit funding meeting in Santa Fe.

During the final period covered by this report, RTPO Staff initiated development of a schedule for ensuring that the Mid-Region RTPO received and prioritized the Public Transportation Program FFY15 grant applications in a timely manner that also met the state-wide prioritization schedule. This activity included coordinating with the Mid-Region MPO to ensure MPO participation in the prioritization process, which will occur early in the first quarter of FFY14.

- Task 6.7 Facilitate RTPO review and prioritization of Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Phase I Planning and Phase 2 Infrastructure applications in response to Projects proposed for funding through the Safe Routes to School and Transportation Alternatives Program processes. Provide the results to the SRTS Coordinator, and include them in the RTPO RTIPR. This activity will continue through the July 1 to September 30, 2013 time frame covered by this Amendment.

During the first quarter, RTPO staff provided information to the RTPO distribution list regarding registration deadlines for the October 3 Walk and Roll to School Day as well as a Safe Routes to School honoraria opportunity.

During the second quarter, staff drafted language revising this task in response to MAP-21 and as part of the effort to revise the Work Program to bring it into alignment with the Federal Fiscal year, as described in Task 2.2. This draft revised language was submitted to NMDOT during the third quarter as part of the Annual Work Program extension package, as described in Task 2.2.

- Task 6.8 Facilitate RTPO review and prioritization of Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) project applications in response to the state-wide prioritization schedule established by the NMDOT Safety Program Engineer. Provide the results to the Safety Program Engineer, and include them in the RTPO RTIPR.

Preparation for this activity in FFY14 will begin during the time frame covered by this Amendment.

Late in the first quarter, Mid-Region RTPO staff received notice that the NMDOT Safety Program Engineer had suspended the program. This information was forwarded to the Mid-Region RTPO distribution list.

In the middle of the second quarter staff received notice that the NMDOT Safety Program Engineer had rescinded the suspension of the HSIP and was soliciting projects. In response, RTPO staff revised the call for RTIPR projects to include HSIP applications, added the HSIP application materials to the RTPO webpage, and provided this information to the RTPO distribution list, as described in Task 6.1. No HSIP project proposals were received from Mid-Region RTPO communities in response to this call for projects.

During the third quarter, in response to further information from NMDOT regarding the potential for another call for HSIP projects, staff began working with the available crash data in an effort to identify potential projects and sites that could be eligible for HSIP funds. Clean up and analysis of this data continued through the fourth and fifth quarters, as time allowed.

Task 6.9 Track the progress of transportation projects in the RTPO region regardless of funding source and regularly inform members of their current status. This activity will continue through the July 1 to September 30, 2013 time frame covered by this Amendment.

Activities related to this task were ongoing throughout the year and were closely coordinated with Mid-Region MPO transportation database maintenance.

Task 6.10 Act as liaison between the NMDOT and local and tribal governments to resolve project issues at the request of either NMDOT or a specific local or tribal government. This activity will continue through the July 1 to September 30, 2013 time frame covered by this Amendment.

Throughout the period covered by this Report, Mid-Region RTPO staff continued to monitor activity related to the NM47 widening project in the Town of Peralta.

During the third quarter, staff acted as a liaison between NMDOT and Pueblo of Jemez staff to identify the potential for an HSIP project on NM4 in connection with the school administrative complex and the alternative high school, as described in Tasks 4.4 and 5.3.

Also during the third quarter, prior to the Step Into Cuba meeting in mid-March, RTPO staff participated in a discussion by Step Into Cuba participants

and NMDOT District 6 staff regarding the US550 project and the NM197/US550 safety project. The bulk of the discussion centered on addressing the drainage issues that have arisen in relation to the NM197/US550 project and the potential impacts to the project as a whole.

Function 7. Long-Range Planning

Task 7.1 Coordinate and participate with NMDOT staff to develop federally or state-required transportation planning products such as the State Strategic Plan, the Long Range Transportation Plan, and the NMDOT Public Involvement Plan (PIP). Provide updates to RTPO members on the status of these activities, and involve the RTPO Committee as appropriate. This activity will continue through the July 1 to September 30, 2013 time frame covered by this Amendment.

During the fourth quarter, Mid-Region RTPO staff met with NMDOT staff to provide an assessment of the previous NM Long Range Transportation Planning effort and the role of the RTPOs and the RTPO Long Range Plan in that process. Staff also provided input to NMDOT Staff regarding the design and concept for the Statewide Long Range Plan, participated in a workshop for initiation of the Plan, and provided comments on the draft Scope of Work. In addition, staff provided the NMDOT staff responsible for the Statewide Long Range Plan with a list of the agencies and persons contacted during development of the 2007 Mid-Region RTPO Long Range Plan.

During the fourth quarter, RTPO staff also participated in a meeting regarding a proposed NMDOT Planning Policies and Procedures manual.

During the final period covered by this Report, RTPO staff provided input to NMDOT regarding development of both the Statewide Freight Plan and the Statewide Long Range Plan. In addition, staff arranged with the NMDOT Transit and Rail Division for a presentation regarding the State Rail Plan at the RTPO Committee meeting early in the first quarter of FFY14.

Task 7.2 Collaborate with NMDOT and other partners to identify and document current and future transportation needs, plans, and projects in the RTPO. This activity will continue through the July 1 to September 30, 2013 time frame covered by this Amendment.

During the fourth quarter, Mid-Region RTPO staff worked with Mid-Region RTD Rio Metro staff to provide support to a proposal by Valles Caldera planning staff to utilize Forest Lands Access Program funds for public transportation access to the Caldera from the Jemez Pueblo and the Village of Jemez Springs. RTPO staff and Rio Metro staff both provided letters of support for this project.

During the final quarter covered by this Report, various potential transportation projects and needs were identified during discussions at the Functional Classification meetings discussed under Task 8.1. Documentation of these needs is anticipated during development of the Mid-Region RTPO Long Range Plan, which will occur as part of Task 7.1 during the latter stages of the State-wide Long Range Plan development.

- Task 7.3 Coordinate long-range regional transportation planning with other local, regional, and statewide planning initiatives such as Infrastructure Capital Improvement Plans, the STIP, legislative capital outlay priorities, local comprehensive planning, the regional *Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy*, and other relevant planning processes. This activity will continue through the July 1 to September 30, 2013 time frame covered by this Amendment.

During the first quarter, a training session was provided to the Mid-Region RTPO Committee members regarding the relationship of Infrastructure Capital Improvement Plans, legislative capital outlay priorities, the Community Development Block Grant program, and the transportation project programming process. In addition, Mid-Region RTPO staff coordinated with Mid-Region regional planning staff as regional planning staff assisted the municipalities of Moriarty, Willard, and Peralta with updates to their comprehensive plans.

During the second quarter, RTPO staff downloaded and reviewed the ICIPs for the Mid-Region RTPO communities. This information provided useful background information during review and coordination of RTIPR project proposals and discussion of those proposals at the "Zipper" meetings during the third quarter. In addition, Mid-Region RTPO staff coordinated with Mid-Region regional planning staff as regional planning staff prepared to assist Torrance County with an update to its comprehensive plan. Knowledge obtained during these reviews was incorporated into review and discussion of the submitted PIFs at the RTPO Committee meeting and subsequent District "Zipper" meetings.

During the third quarter, staff monitored the capital outlay project proposals and the result of the legislative responses to those proposals during the legislative session.

During the fourth quarter, activities related to this task focused on providing input to the draft Coordinated Transportation Plan for the Mid-Region area and arranging for a presentation to and comments from the RTPO Committee at its June 2013 meeting.

- Task 7.4 Maintain the regional long-range plan for the RTPO utilizing a format consistent with NMDOT's most current Long Range Transportation Plan. This activity will continue through the July 1 to September 30, 2013 time frame

covered by this Amendment.

Activities related to this task were ongoing throughout the period covered by this Report.

Function 8. Other Activities and Projects

Task 8.1 Coordinate and participate with NMDOT staff on special studies or projects specified in the NMDOT AWP. Provide periodic updates to RTPPO members on the status of the studies/projects, and involve the members in this effort as appropriate. This activity will continue through the July 1 to September 30, 2013 time frame covered by this Amendment and will include modifications to the Statewide roadway functional classification system.

During the fourth quarter, Mid-Region RTPPO staff coordinated with Mid-Region MPO staff regarding the effort to update the Mid-Region roadway functional classification system. This included developing a knowledge base regarding update requirements and newly-defined processes. Meetings with the pertinent communities were held in the final period covered by this Report. This effort focused on meetings with community representatives, which were held in Valencia, Sandoval, and Torrance Counties. Completion of this work is anticipated in the first quarter of FFY14.

Also during the fourth quarter, RTPPO staff provided questions and input to NMDOT staff regarding a proposed project prioritization process for the distribution and programming of Highway Safety Improvement Program funds in FFY2013 and FFY14.

During the final period covered by this Report, RTPPO staff participated in a meeting regarding the draft Policies and Procedures Manual as the sole representative for the RTPPOs in New Mexico.

Task 8.2 Coordinate and participate with the Councils of Governments (COGs) and applicable New Mexico State agency staff on legislative studies related to state-wide or RTPPO-specific transportation issues, as appropriate. This activity will continue through the July 1 to September 30, 2013 time frame covered by this Amendment.

During the third quarter, RTPPO staff provided comments to NMDOT GTG staff regarding both the preliminary draft and the final draft Transportation Alternatives Program Guidance, including a face-to-face meeting with the then-State TAP Coordinator and Mid-Region MPO staff.

- Task 8.3 Provide assistance to local governments interested in pursuing regional transportation system development and coordination activities. This activity will continue through the July 1 to September 30, 2013 time frame covered by this Amendment.

Throughout the period covered by this Report, Mid-Region RTPPO staff continued to work with the Estancia Valley and East Mountains Transportation Committee (aka Partnership for a Healthy Torrance County) to explore opportunities for reestablishing public transportation services in the Estancia Valley and eastern Bernalillo County. RTPPO staff activity included attending Committee meetings and acting as a liaison between the Committee and Rio Metro RTD staff. As a result, during the first quarter, the RTD sought funding (unsuccessfully) to initiate service in the area, while the Committee began discussions with elected officials regarding the potential for joining Rio Metro and a future ballot measure to increase local gross receipts tax levels to support Rio Metro services.

During the second quarter, support included providing maps of potential routes, attending Committee meetings, meeting with RTD staff, and acting as liaison between the Committee and Rio Metro RTD staff. As a result, the Committee gathered eight letters of support for the concept and RTD staff discussed it with the RTD Finance Committee and initiated discussions with NMDOT General Office staff.

During the third quarter, support for this effort consisted primarily in monitoring Rio Metro meetings for discussions about this topic and reporting back to the Committee. During the final two quarters covered by this Report, staff focused primarily on liaison work with Rio Metro RTD and MRCOG Executive staff, and providing information for a meeting of the MRCOG Executive Director and Partnership participants early in the first quarter of FFY14.

In other activities during the fourth quarter, RTPPO staff was invited to participate in further discussions regarding potential funding for the NM41 Rails to Trails project between Moriarty and Estancia. These discussions are scheduled to occur early in the first quarter of FFY14.

- Task 8.4 Monitor development of Federal and state laws affecting the transportation system, and provide information about the contents and status to RTPPO members. This activity will continue through the July 1 to September 30, 2013 time frame covered by this Amendment.

During the first quarter, Mid-Region RTPPO staff attended several webinars regarding MAP-21 and reviewed the MAP-21 legislation in preparation for an RTPPO training session planned for the second quarter.

During the second quarter, RTPPO staff developed and provided two presentations to the RTPPO Committee regarding MAP-21, one related to

project eligibility and the other to implications of MAP-21 for the Committee's structure and Bylaws. Modifications to the RTIPR Project Identification Forms were made, and changes to the Bylaws were initiated as a result of this effort.

Monitoring activities related to legislative changes continued during the third quarter, with a special emphasis on state laws during the state legislative session. The necessary changes to the RTPO Committee Bylaws in response to MAP-21 were also completed during this quarter.

During the fourth quarter, staff focused primarily on providing updated information to the RTPO communities regarding the TAP process as established by NMDOT GTG staff. In addition, a statement from the Federal OMB regarding the status of the Highway Trust Fund was distributed to the RTPO membership.

Task 8.5 Participate in miscellaneous programs and special projects in the RTPO region. This activity will continue through the July 1 to September 30, 2013 time frame covered by this Amendment.

During the first quarter, Mid-Region RTPO staff participated in a PNM-sponsored two-day workshop regarding mitigation of potential impacts from a proposed energy generation plant west of Belen. The outcome of the session was a list of non-binding recommendations to PNM regarding roadway dust mitigation during construction, coordination with local educational institutions to develop technical training programs, identification of desalinization techniques, and voluntarily reducing the amount of water used by the proposed plant.

During the period covered by this Report, staff continued to monitor the efforts to bring a public radio station, KXNM 88.7 FM to Torrance County. Once it is in place, the station is expected to be a valuable public outreach tool for transportation projects in the County. The radio station received its license to operate during the second quarter.

RTPO staff also participated in the inception and development of a set of economic development activities along the Old Route 66 corridor between Edgewood and Moriarty. This effort was initiated during the first quarter and continued throughout the period covered by this Report. A Town Hall was held in April 2013 and was followed by a variety of other activities and planning efforts for the corridor.

During the third quarter

- In late October, RTPO staff provided a presentation at a workshop sponsored by the Step Into Cuba Alliance in support of an NM Department of Health Community Transformation Grant program in other rural communities in the State. The purpose of the workshop was

to explain what strategies Step Into Cuba had implemented in Cuba and how they could be applied in the grantee communities. The presentation explained the RTPO process and the value of participating in the RPO process statewide. Participants came from Luna, Cibola, Rio Arriba and other counties, as well as four tribes in the State, including Zuni and Mescalero.

- RTPO staff met with a representative of the National Park Service to discuss the potential impacts of a proposed alignment of the SunZia transmission line across Torrance County and the potential impacts to scenic vistas along the southern “leg” of the Salt Missions Trail Scenic Byway. Consequently, a letter to the Bureau of Land Management was developed to explain the relationship of the Byway to the Gran Quivera site and the visitor experience of that site.
- RTPO and Rio Metro RTD staff met with a representative of the Valles Caldera and their consultant team to discuss the potential for a joint application for Federal Lands Access Program funds to increase public transportation to the Jemez Mountains and the Caldera. Contact information for other potential partners in Sandoval County and the Northern Pueblos RTPO, as well as cost estimates for service, were subsequently provided to the consultant team.

RTPO staff continued to participate in Step Into Cuba Alliance meetings throughout the period covered by this Report, as part of the ongoing outreach to the Village of Cuba and to support the multi-modal, integrated approach to health and mobility that the Alliance advocates and seeks to implement.