



**Mid-Region Council of Governments  
Executive Board**

**Thursday, March 10, 2022**

**10:00 a.m.-10:30 a.m.**

**809 Copper Avenue NW, Albuquerque, New Mexico 87102**

***The Zoom link is on the next page. This will be a hybrid meeting.  
Please join us at the COG if you wish.***

<b>Debbie O'Malley, Chair</b>	<b>Barbara Baca, Vice-Chair</b>
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**AGENDA**

	<b>Call to Order</b> <i>The presence of a quorum will be noted.</i>
Tab 1	<b>Approval of Agenda of March 10, 2022</b>
Tab 2	<b>Approval of Action Summary of January 13, 2022</b>

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

Tab 3	<b>Public Comments</b> <i>ANYONE WHO WISHES TO ADDRESS THE EXECUTIVE BOARD MUST REGISTER WITH THE SECRETARY OF THE BOARD.</i>
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**ACTION ITEMS**

Tab 4	<b>Presentation of the FY 2021 MRCOG Audited Financials</b> This document can also be viewed on the MRCOG website. Link: <a href="#">Audit Report</a>
Tab 5	<b>Budget Adjustment 2022</b>

**DISCUSSION / INFORMATION ITEMS**

Tab 6	<b>Financial Update</b>
Tab 7	<b>Mid-Year 2022 Budget Goals and Objectives</b>
Tab 8	<b>Update on Economic Development Activities</b>
Tab 9	<b>Update on REMI Requests</b>
Tab 10	<b>Executive Director's Report</b>
Tab 11	<b>Board Comments</b>

**Adjournment (A motion to adjourn is not necessary)**

Next Scheduled Meeting:

Thursday, April 14, 2022, 10:00 a.m.

*Anyone requiring special accommodations please notify the MRCOG office at 247-1750 seven (7) days prior to the meeting.*

**Zoom link below**

You are invited to a Zoom webinar.

When: Mar 10, 2022 10:00 AM Mountain Time (US and Canada)

Topic: MRCOG Executive Board Meeting

Please click the link below to join the webinar:

<https://zoom.us/j/92478631864?pwd=dk1WdXlMY1VoRWxnckg2NUxYZlNFZz09>

Passcode: 271740

Or One tap mobile :

US: +16699006833,,92478631864#,,,,\*271740# or +12532158782,,92478631864#,,,,\*271740#

Or Telephone:

Dial(for higher quality, dial a number based on your current location):

US: +1 669 900 6833 or +1 253 215 8782 or +1 346 248 7799 or +1 929 436 2866 or +1 301 715  
8592 or +1 312 626 6799

Webinar ID: 924 7863 1864

Passcode: 271740

International numbers available: <https://zoom.us/u/acf7UASncc>

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## Action Summary

**Mid-Region Council of Governments**  
**EXECUTIVE BOARD**  
**Thursday, October 14, 2021**  
**10:00 a.m.**  
**809 Copper Ave. NW**  
**Albuquerque, New Mexico 87102**

**Debbie O'Malley, Chair**

**Barbara Baca, Vice-Chair**

ORGANIZATION	PRESENT	MEMBER	PRESENT	ALTERNATE
Sandoval County	<b>X</b>	<b>David Heil</b> , Commissioner		
Bernalillo County Municipalities		<b>Donald Lopez</b> , Mayor Village of Los Ranchos de Albuquerque		Ann Simon
City of Albuquerque (Administration)		<b>Lawrence Rael</b> , Chief Operations Officer		Leon Espinoza
City of Albuquerque (Council)		<b>Cynthia Borrego</b> , Councilor	<b>X</b>	Tom Menicucci, Susan Vigil
Bernalillo County	<b>X</b>	<b>Debbie O'Malley</b> , Commissioner, <i>Chair</i>		Other commissioners
Flood Control Authorities	<b>X</b>	<b>Ronald D. Brown</b> , AMAFCA		Other board mbrs Bruce Thomson
MRGCD		<b>Barbara Baca</b> , <i>Vice-Chair</i>		Karen Dunning Tim Eichenberg
City of Rio Rancho	<b>X</b>	<b>Greggory D. Hull</b> , Mayor		Peter Wells
Sandoval County Municipalities		<b>Jack Torres</b> , Mayor, Town of Bernalillo		
School Districts	<b>X</b>	<b>Candelaria Patterson</b> , Albuquerque Public Schools		Elizabeth Armijo Dave Peercy
Torrance County		<b>Leroy Candelaria</b> , Commissioner		Janice Barela
Torrance County Municipalities	<b>X</b>	<b>M. Steven Anaya</b> Councilor, City of Moriarty		Linda Fischer
Valencia County		<b>Vacant</b> , Commissioner		Vacant
Valencia County Municipalities	<b>X</b>	<b>Russell Walkup</b> , Mayor, Village of Bosque Farms		Vacant
Village of Tijeras		<b>Jake Bruton</b> , Mayor		
<b>NON-VOTING ADVISORY MEMBERS</b>				
ORGANIZATION	PRESENT	MEMBER	PRESENT	ALTERNATE
Federal Highway Administration		<b>Cindy Vigue</b> , Division Administrator		Vacant
NMDOT		<b>Mike Sandoval</b> , Secretary		Vacant
NMDOT		<b>Justin Gibson</b> , District 3 Engineer		Vacant
Pueblo of Santa Ana		Governor		Vacant
<b>NON-VOTING ASSOCIATE MEMBERS</b>				
Isleta Pueblo		<b>Kathy Trujillo</b>		Vacant
<b>MRCOG STAFF AND OTHERS PRESENT</b>				
Dewey Cave, Barbara Thomas, Larry Horan, Kendra Montanari				

## AGENDA

### Call to Order

The October 14, 2021 MRCOG Executive Board meeting was called to order by Chair Debbie O'Malley, Bernalillo County, at 10:03 a.m. and the presence of a quorum was noted by roll-call vote. See attendance sheet above.

Tab 1

### Approval of Agenda

#### Action Taken:

Chair O'Malley made a motion to:

#### **APPROVE THE AGENDA FOR OCTOBER 14, 2021**

The motion was seconded by Gregory Hull, City of Rio Rancho, and passed unanimously on a roll-call vote of seven (7) in favor and none opposed. See attendance sheet above.

Tab 2

### Approval of Action Summary of June 10, 2021

#### Action Taken:

Ron Brown, AMAFCA, made a motion to:

#### **APPROVE THE ACTION SUMMARY OF JUNE 10, 2021**

The motion was seconded by Ms. O'Malley and passed unanimously on a roll call vote of seven (7) in favor and none opposed. See attendance sheet above.

## PUBLIC COMMENT

Tab 3

### Public Comment

Pam Herndon, House District 28, spoke briefly requesting support for naming the trail along Tramway Rd. for a New Mexico athlete. She said she will be working with other New Mexico representatives and asked that naming suggestions be sent to her.

A brief discussion followed regarding the jurisdiction of the Trail.

## ACTION ITEMS

Tab 4

### Approval of Salary Adjustment for MRCOG Executive Director

Mr. Brown made a motion to go into closed session to discuss the salary adjustment. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hull and passed unanimously on a roll call vote of seven (7) in favor and none opposed.

The board members came back into open session and Mr. Brown said that the item had been discussed with no specific action taken. The decision would be made upon returning to an open session. Mr. Horan, MRCOG legal counsel, said that an increase of 1.5% was approved in the closed session.

#### Action Taken:

Mr. Brown made a motion to:

**APPROVE THE SALARY ADJUSTMENT AS PRESENTED**

The motion was seconded by Ms. O'Malley and passed unanimously on a vote of (seven) in favor and none opposed.

Tab 5

**Approval of FY 2021 Final Budget Adjustment**

Amy Myer presented the budget adjustment explaining that the 2021 budget was adopted on June 11, 2020, and adjusted on November 12, 2020. Subsequent to May 2021, there were additional changes in funding sources and planned expenditures that require additional adjustments to the FY21 Budget.

The changes are as follows:

**Local Government Planning Assistance (LPA) – increase of \$5,000** – Carry over of prior fiscal years' budget to cover current year's expenditures. There is no impact on revenues.

Ms. Myer said that approval of the budget adjustment will authorize management to spend the funding allocated as adjusted.

The total 2021 authorized budgeted expenditure increased from \$16,561,142 to \$16,566,142. There is no impact on revenues.

**Action Taken:**

Mr. Brown made a motion to:

**APPROVE THE FY 2021 FINAL BUDGET ADJUSTMENT**

The motion was seconded by Steve Anaya, Torrance County Municipalities, and passed Unanimously on a vote of seven in favor and none opposed.

Tab 6

**Approval of FY 2021-2022 Budget Adjustment**

Ms. Myer presented the FY 2021-2022 Budget Adjustment explaining the following:

The 2022 Budget was adopted on June 10, 2021. Subsequent to June 2021, there were additional changes in funding sources and planned expenditures that require additional adjustments to the FY22 Budget. Adjustments are as follows:

**Workforce Investment Act (WIA) AE/FA – decrease of \$28,339** – The adjustment is to update the budget to agree to the contract between WCCNM and MRCOG. There is also a decrease of \$28,339 to Local Revenues.

**One-Stop Operator – increase of \$169,353** – In prior fiscal years, the One-Stop Operator contract was included in the AE/FA contract. This year, One-Stop Operator contract will be budgeted and tracked separately. There is also an increase of \$169,353 to Federal Revenues.

**Service Provider Adult and Dislocated Workers – increase of \$1,517,140, –**  
MRCOG/WCCNM was awarded the contract from NMDWS to run the Adult & Dislocated Workers program in the Central Region under Workforce Investment and Opportunities Act (WIOA). MRCOG/WCCNM will take over the contract from SER beginning August 28, 2021. The budget increase represents 10 months of personnel costs for 2021. There is also an increase of \$1,517,140 to Federal Revenues.

Ms. Myer said that approval of the budget adjustment will authorize management to spend the funding allocated as adjusted.

The total 2022 authorized budgeted expenditures increased from \$14,852,572 to \$16,510,726. Total 2022 budgeted revenues increased from \$14,824,686 to \$16,482,840.

Ms. Myer stood for questions.

**Action Taken:**

Mr. Brown made a motion to:

**APPROVE THE FY 2021-2022 BUDGET ADJUSTMENT**

The motion was seconded by Mr. Hull and passed unanimously on a vote of seven (7) in favor and none opposed.

**DISCUSSION AND INFORMATION ITEMS**

Tab 7 **Financial Update**

Ms. Myer presented the financial updates (final 2021 and first quarter of 2021-22) as of June 30, 2021 noting expenditures of \$12,995,776 and revenues of \$12,314,403. The difference is due to indirect cost rates on fund balances on a carry forward basis. Ms. Myer noted that these figures are always being corrected and will change in the next fiscal year.

Ms. Myer stood for questions.

Tab 8 **Report from Economic Development**

Augusta Meyers, MRCOG Economic Development Director, reported on activities of the Partnership for Community Action and Village of Los Lunas grant activities. She noted that the CARES Act Grant was meant to develop economic resilience and recovery during this stressful period and she also presented information on the American Rescue Plan funds noting that she has several applications. These monies are available through six different categories.

Ms. Meyers stood for questions. Ms. O’Malley asked who the applicants should reach out to. Ms. Meyers said that applicants can reach out to her and she will offer guidance and letters of support.

Tab 9 **Executive Director’s Report**

Mr. Cave reported that the COG will not host an annual event this year due to continuing Covid infection rates. He noted that the 2021 Annual Report will be sent to board members.

Mr. Cave thanked out-going City of Albuquerque Councilor Diane Gibson for her work with MRCOG and welcomed Isaac Benton and Steven Tomita as chair and vice-chair respectively of the RMRTD Board.

	<p>He also said that the MRCOG Goals and Objectives document has been sent out to board members.</p> <p>Entrance conferences with Moss Adams have been held and their work will be wrapped up by December. Mr. Cave said he anticipates no findings for the 11<sup>th</sup> year in a row. He thanked Amy Myer and her staff.</p> <p>Kendra Montanari announced that the ULI conference will be held on October 20<sup>th</sup> and there are spaces left if board members are interested.</p> <p>Mr. Cave introduced Bianca Borg who has replaced Sandy Gaiser as Regional Planning Manager.</p>
Tab 10	<p><b>Board Comments</b></p> <p>There were no questions or comments from board members.</p>
	<p><b>Adjournment</b></p> <p>The meeting adjourned at 11:05 a.m.</p>

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Debbie O'Malley, Chair  
MRCOG Board of Directors

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Dewey V. Cave, Executive Director  
MRCOG

Mid-Region Council of Governments of New Mexico

**Approval of the FY22 Budget Adjustment  
BAR 2-10-22**

Action Requested: Approval of MRCOG's FY 2022 Interim Budget Adjustment.

Action Summary: The 2022 Budget was adopted on June 10, 2021, and adjusted October 14, 2021 and January 2022. Subsequent to January, there were additional changes in funding sources and planned expenditures that require additional adjustments to the FY22 Budget.

Background: The changes are as follows:

**AARP Grant – increase of \$3,200** – MRCOG received a small grant from AARP to contribute to MRCOG's ongoing work on Complete Streets program. This increases Other Revenues by \$3,200.

**Economic Development Administration – increase of \$65,000** – The increase is due to unspent carry over funds from prior year. The adjustment increases Federal Revenue by \$39,000.

Policy Ramification: Approval of the budget adjustment will authorize management to spend the funding allocated as adjusted.

Financial Impact: The total 2022 authorized budgeted expenditures increased from \$17,160,726 to \$17,228,926. Total 2022 budgeted revenues increased from \$16,982,840 to \$17,025,040.

**MRCOG BUDGET 2022**

Budget adjustment worksheet

Tab 5

Program Name	FY 22 Approved Budget	Budget Adjustment	
		2-10-22	FY 22 Final Budget
<b>Expenditures:</b>			
<b>Regional Transportation Planning</b>			
Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) - FHWA	\$ 1,077,460		\$ 1,077,460
Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) - FTA	580,234		580,234
Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) - Rio Metro	398,896		398,896
REACH Grant - Presbyterian Complete Streets Grant	52,000		52,000
Regional Transportation Planning Organization (RPO)	106,250		106,250
Traffic Surveillance Program	407,719		407,719
Travel Time Program	277,227		277,227
Ortho Digital Photography	480,418		480,418
Cooperative ITS Project	765,269		765,269
City of Albuquerque-Golf Course/Taylor Ranch Study	117,929		117,929
AARP Grant	-	3,200	3,200
<b>Rio Metro</b>			
Rio Metro Operations	8,775,020		8,775,020
<b>Economic Development</b>			
Economic Development Administration	116,667	65,000	181,667
Regional Transportation and Logistics Study	3,131		3,131
Grant Administrator for EDA Capital Grants	29,174		29,174
EDA COVID-19 Response Grant (CARES Act)	339,836		339,836
<b>Regional and Local Planning</b>			
Local Government Planning Assistance (LPA)	198,000		198,000
Comprehensive Plans	28,159		28,159
<b>Workforce Development Programs</b>			
Workforce Investment Act (WIA) AE/FA	1,420,844		1,420,844
One-Stop Operator	169,353		169,353
Service Provider Adult & Dislocated Workers	1,517,140		1,517,140
<b>General Fund</b>			
Capital Outlay	200,000		200,000
Professional Services	25,000		25,000
Operating Costs	75,000		75,000
Overhead in excess of indirect cost allocation	-		-
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$ 17,160,726</b>	<b>\$ 68,200</b>	<b>\$ 17,228,926</b>
<b>Sources of Funds/Revenues:</b>			
Federal	\$ 4,834,982	\$ 39,000	4,873,982
State	99,000		99,000
Local	10,594,760		10,594,760
Other	770,234	3,200	773,434
Membership Dues	583,864		583,864
Indirect cost allocation in excess of overhead	100,000		100,000
<b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>	<b>\$ 16,982,840</b>	<b>\$ 42,200</b>	<b>\$ 17,025,040</b>
<b>Revenues over (under) expenditures</b>	<b>\$ (177,886)</b>	<b>\$ (26,000)</b>	<b>\$ (203,886)</b>
<b>Beginning Fund Balance</b>	<b>785,348</b>		<b>785,348</b>
<b>Ending Fund Balance</b>	<b>\$ 607,462</b>	<b>\$ (26,000)</b>	<b>\$ 581,462</b>

Mid-Region Council of Governments  
Board Financial Report  
as of February 28, 2022

Tab 6

Program Name	FY22 Approved Budget	Expenditures as of 2/28/22	Projected amounts through 6/30/22	Projected balances at 6/30/22	% Expended at 2/28/22
<b>Expenditures:</b>					
<b>Regional Transportation Planning</b>					
Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) - FHWA	\$ 1,077,460	474,021	711,032	366,429	44%
Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) - FTA	580,234	238,202	357,303	222,931	41%
Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) - Rio Metro	398,896	181,656	272,484	126,412	46%
REACH Grant - Presbyterian Complete Streets Grant	52,000	34,245	51,368	633	66%
Regional Transportation Planning Organization (RPO)	106,250	52,437	78,656	27,595	49%
Traffic Surveillance Program	407,719	230,767	346,151	61,569	57%
Travel Time Program	277,227	216,210	277,227	-	78%
Ortho Digital Photography	480,418	-	200,000	280,418	0%
Cooperative ITS Project	765,269	50,745	76,118	689,152	7%
City of Albuquerque-Golf Course/Taylor Ranch Study	117,929	79,614	117,929	-	68%
AARP Grant	3,200	50	75	3,200	2%
<b>Rio Metro</b>					
Rio Metro Operations	8,775,020	5,485,088	8,227,632	547,388	63%
<b>Economic Development</b>					
Economic Development Administration	181,667	118,491	177,737	3,931	65%
Regional Transportation and Logistics Study	3,131	1,325	1,988	1,144	42%
Grant Administrator for EDA Capital Grants	29,174	5,119	7,679	21,496	18%
EDA COVID-19 Response Grant (CARES Act)	339,836	46,506	69,759	270,077	14%
<b>Regional and Local Planning</b>					
Local Government Planning Assistance (LPA)	198,000	88,956	133,434	64,566	45%
Comprehensive Plans	28,159	10,758	16,137	12,022	0%
<b>Workforce Development Programs</b>					
Workforce Investment Act (WIA) AE/FA	1,420,844	888,659	1,332,989	87,856	63%
One-Stop Operator	169,353	98,658	147,987	21,366	58%
Service Provider Adult & Dislocated Workers	1,517,140	692,193	1,038,290	478,851	46%
<b>General Fund</b>					
Capital Outlay	200,000	69,016	103,524	96,476	35%
Professional Services	25,000	9,000	13,500	11,500	36%
Operating Costs	75,000	24,504	36,756	38,244	33%
Overhead in excess of indirect cost allocation	-	-	-	-	0%
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURES</b>	<b>\$ 17,228,926</b>	<b>\$ 9,096,220</b>	<b>\$ 13,795,750</b>	<b>\$ 3,433,251</b>	
<b>Sources of Funds/Revenues:</b>					
Federal	\$ 4,873,982	1,992,911	2,949,135	1,924,847	41%
State	99,000	44,478	66,717	32,283	45%
Local	10,594,760	6,555,403	9,833,105	761,656	62%
Other	773,434	96,816	343,732	429,702	13%
Membership Dues	583,864	581,505	581,505	2,359	100%
Indirect cost allocation in excess of overhead	100,000	144,830	248,280	(148,280)	0%
<b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>	<b>\$ 17,025,040</b>	<b>\$ 9,415,943</b>	<b>\$ 14,022,473</b>	<b>\$ 3,002,567</b>	
<b>Revenues over (under) expenditures</b>	<b>\$ (203,886)</b>	<b>\$ 319,723</b>	<b>\$ 226,723</b>		
<b>Beginning Fund Balance</b>	<b>\$ 785,348</b>	<b>\$ 785,348</b>	<b>\$ 785,348</b>		
<b>Ending Fund Balance</b>	<b>\$ 581,462</b>	<b>\$ 1,105,071</b>	<b>\$ 1,012,071</b>		

<sup>1</sup> % year elapsed - 67%



**Mid-Region  
Council of Governments**

**FY2022**  
**GOALS & OBJECTIVES**  
**MID-YEAR REPORT**

*Presented by: Dewey V. Cave, Executive Director*  
*February 2022*

**FY22 MID-YEAR REPORTING - QUICK REFERENCE TABLE**

Goal/Objective	"x" if complete	Status:
<b><i>Program: Transportation Planning – Kendra Montanari &amp; Steven Montiel</i></b>		
Monitor progress of <i>Connections 2040 Metropolitan Transportation Plan (MTP)</i> and process amendments if necessary.	x	Complete. No amendments necessary to the current MTP. The current long-range plan, adopted by the Metropolitan Transportation Board, continues to be monitored.
Maintain the current FFY 2020-2025 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and process revisions as necessary.	x	Ongoing. FFY 2020-2025 TIP administrative modifications continue to be processed monthly and TIP amendments on a quarterly basis. TIP development has moved from a 2-year cycle to a 4-year cycle. Staff will begin development of the FFY 2024-2029 TIP in Fall of 2022. The current TIP is continually monitored for Fiscal Constraint as required by federal law.
Collect, analyze and disseminate new socioeconomic data, Census transportation data and regional household travel survey results for integration into the travel demand model.	x	Ongoing. New data releases have been analyzed and disseminated to member agencies and the public for demographic economic and transportation purposes. Staff will continue to work with member agencies as new data is released.
Assist in finalizing efforts in the 2020 U.S. Census.	x	MRMPO has worked with the Census Bureau to facilitate workshops on the importance of answering the Census 2020. Staff continues to work with new Census products and data releases, and will coordinate with member agencies to ensure they receive all the latest Census data and product updates.
GIS and Interactive Mapping: continue implementation of a cloud-based, collaborative on-line management system for maps, data, and other geospatial information.	x	Ongoing. MRMPO staff continue making progress towards building an enterprise GIS system.

Goal/Objective	"x" if complete	Status:
<b><i>Program: Transportation Planning – Kendra Montanari &amp; Steven Montiel</i></b>		
Maintain and update, as necessary, the Congestion Management Process (CMP) in the Albuquerque Metropolitan Planning Area (AMPA), including collection of travel time data across the region.	x	Ongoing. Travel time and crash datasets and reports are continuously updated as new data becomes available.
Finalize assistance with the implementation of the Regional Transportation Management Center (RTMC).	x	<p>Construction of the new RTMC was completed in FFY 2021. ITS stakeholders within the AMPA region have established a RTMC that will serve as a central command facility for regional transportation management. The project, sponsored by the NMDOT with support from ITS stakeholders in the AMPA, is in the early stages of occupancy.</p> <p>Through the RTMC, benefits include real time alerting of roadway conditions, co-location/presence for partners to coordinate more effectively, coordinated timely response on incidents and adverse travel conditions for improved public safety.</p>
Coordinate the Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) activities and maintenance of the AMPA Regional ITS Architecture.	x	Ongoing. The Regional ITS Architecture is being maintained on a regular basis.
Continue the coordinated development of a regional Incident Management Plan for coordinating responses to incidents on Interstate and arterial highways in order to minimize impacts to drivers. This is a joint project with NMDOT, Albuquerque, Bernalillo County and Rio Rancho. This project will continue for 2-3 years.		Final documents were generated on the Incident Management Plan with acceptance of the final document. The plan will be used operationally to support the new Regional Traffic Management Center. The final draft of the Concept of Operations is under review and is anticipated to be delivered in the first part of FFY22. Phase 2 of the regional Incident Management Plan will continue into 2022.

Goal/Objective	“x” if complete	Status:
<b><i>Program: Transportation Planning – Kendra Montanari &amp; Steven Montiel</i></b>		
Assist various governmental agencies with their planning efforts to include moving transportation capital projects through the project development process, local government agreement process and federal funding obligation process.	x	Ongoing. MRMPO is currently assisting the Village of Los Lunas with the Los Lunas Corridor River Crossing Project. Staff meets with the Village on a monthly basis to coordinate the project’s development process and provide technical assistance as needed.
Implement the FFY 2021 & 2022 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) and budgets.	x	The UPWP was formally amended in October/November of 2021 in order to accommodate FFY 2021 carryover funds into the FFY 2022 budget. The amendment also incorporated actual FTA 5303 award amounts for the FFY 2022 budget to replace estimated figures. The amendment included budget changes to reflect increased indirect costs for FFY 2022. MRMPO is on track with the budget and will close out the FFY as planned. Work on the FFY 2023 & 2024 UPWP will begin in Spring of 2022.
Complete administrative tasks for the MPO (i.e. budget adjustments, revisions to the UPWP).	x	Ongoing. MRMPO began implementation of the FFY 2022 budget on October 1, 2021. Staff completed an amendment to the UPWP/budget to carryover FFY 2021 funds into FFY 2022 for the various funding categories.
Continue upgrades of various programs and modeling software.	x	Ongoing.
<b><i>Program: Traffic Surveillance – Nathan Masek</i></b>		
Collect all required traffic counts: volume, vehicle classification, special counts, COVID counts, and bicycle and pedestrian counts in the four-county area and transmit them to NMDOT for incorporation into the Highway Performance Monitoring System (HPMS).	x	Routine traffic counts were processed and transmitted to NMDOT. MRMPO and NMDOT have completed another successful year for the traffic counts program.

Goal/Objective	"x" if complete	Status:
<b>Program: Traffic Surveillance – Nathan Masek</b>		
Complete and distribute the annual Traffic Flow Maps.	x	Staff finalized the <i>FY 2020 MRMPO Traffic Flow Map</i> in early FY 2022. the development schedule of the FY 2021 MRMPO Traffic Flow Map is currently under review and a 2021 product is expected to be delivered by the end of this FFY.
<b>Program: Regional Transportation Planning – Bianca Borg</b>		
Maintain a coordinated transportation planning process for local public agencies, including tribes, located in the Regional Transportation Planning Organization (RTPO) area.	x	Ongoing. The RTPO Committee meets bimonthly to coordinate rural transportation planning efforts. For COVID safety, all six of the meetings were held in a virtual only format. MRCOG staff also publishes an electronic newsletter that is distributed to RTPO members, alternates, and interested parties.
Provide staff support to local and regional health initiatives that emphasize transportation as a means for combative and preventative measures for improving health and wellness.	x	Ongoing. MRRTPO staff attends the local health councils to coordinate local and regional health initiatives, including the Healthy Torrance Communities. Representatives from the health councils also attend the MRRTPO Committee meetings.
Provide technical assistance, such as mapping, strategic long-range planning and project development to participating local agencies and tribes.	x	Ongoing. Staff works with RTPO member governments to provide maps and project development regarding rural transportation projects. Some examples include: Continuing to develop regional and local maps for the Regional Transportation Plan, monitoring new federal infrastructure legislation and associated funding opportunities for potential member entity projects, and coordinating with member entities to help identify potential transportation projects.
Implement and update the RTPO Regional Transportation Plan.	x	Ongoing. MRRTPO staff is working closely with NMDOT staff to update the RTPO Regional Transportation Plan. We are estimating that the plan will be completed in the Spring of 2022.

Goal/Objective	“x” if complete	Status:
<b>Program: Rio Metro Regional Transit District – Tony Sylvester</b>		
<p>Select a contractor and negotiate an operations and maintenance contract for the New Mexico Rail Runner Express. As in past years, the operations and maintenance contractor will have numerous responsibilities: staffing and operating the Rail Runner, maintaining the fleet and facilities, maintaining the railroad track and right of way, and various construction responsibilities. Additionally, starting with this agreement, contractor responsibilities also include the operations and maintenance of the positive train control (PTC) system.</p>	x	<p>Complete. After issuing a solicitation, evaluating proposals, and negotiating terms, Rio Metro entered into an agreement with Herzog Transit Services, Inc. to provide operational and maintenance services for the New Mexico Rail Runner Express. The eight-year agreement includes an option for an extension and includes the new responsibilities required for PTC and communications systems operations and maintenance.</p>
<p>Complete engineering and / or construction of ongoing rail and transit capital projects. Rail projects include 1) completing the installation of Wi-Fi along Rail Runner corridor in order to provide redundancy for the PTC system as well as for rider amenity, 2) competing the improvements on the NMDOT-owned tracks between Lamy and Madrid (used almost exclusively by Amtrak’s Southwest Chief and funded through the NMDOT’s CRISI grant), and 3) assisting the Town of Bernalillo to advance the construction of Phase II of the pedestrian improvements and related rail crossing projects. Transit related capital projects include completing the design and entering into a contract for the construction of the Valencia County Transit Facility in the Village of Los Lunas.</p>		<p>Ongoing. Progress and current status 1) while implementation of the Wi-Fi system has not been completed all capital improvements have been contracted; environmental and historic preservation clearance have been completed; and, installation of antennas and other wayside equipment is significantly complete, 2) upgrading the signal on NMDOT owned track between Lamy and Madrid is underway and progressing smoothly, and 3) engineering has been completed for the TOB pedestrian improvements. Due to supply chain cost increases the project is in the process of being rescope and rebid. Valencia County Transit Facility design and engineering activities are also progressing and are at 60% - slightly behind schedule due to project scope modifications resulting from supply chain cost increases.</p>

Goal/Objective	"x" if complete	Status:
<b>Program: Rio Metro Regional Transit District – Tony Sylvester</b>		
Recognizing the substandard condition of the existing Rail Runner maintenance facility, complete initial planning and design activities needed to pursue discretionary funding opportunities and to advance the project. These activities include site assessment, environmental review activities and land acquisition.	x	Ongoing. Rio Metro has secured planning and engineering services to confirm and advance the recommendations of the 2016 Maintenance Facility Master Plan. Facility programming, conceptual design and initial site analysis have been completed and an updated costs estimate has been developed. Environmental review activities, property acquisition activities and funding source identification have been initiated and planned to be complete by the end of the fiscal year.
With the decline of COVID-19 related restrictions, monitor ridership levels on the Rail Runner and Rio Metro transit services. Anticipate and evaluate opportunities to regain ridership through service, operations, fleet and facility modifications. Implement a marketing /public information campaign to attract riders back to rail and transit services.	x	Ridership monitoring continues and the marketing department is underway with an initial social media rider outreach/input effort. Scope of work developed and professional services are being secured for a NMRX Service Adjustment study. As drafted, the study will include peer research, an analysis of current ridership characteristics and rider input. The findings of this study will be used to inform potential service and operations modifications.
<b>Program: Economic Development – Augusta Meyers</b>		
Work with local economic development partners to prevent, prepare for, and respond to economic injury as a result of the 2020 COVID-19 pandemic.	x	Ongoing. Staff is developing an Economic Development Resiliency and Recovery Plan that will serve as an addendum to the Mid-Region of New Mexico Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). The plan will address how events, including the COVID-19 pandemic, expose and exacerbate social and economic weaknesses. The plan will develop goals, strategies, policies, programs, and potential project priorities to reduce disasters' impacts on communities and improve economic resilience to hazards or changing conditions.

Goal/Objective	“x” if complete	Status:
<b><i>Program: Economic Development – Augusta Meyers</i></b>		
Work with local economic development partners and advisory board members of the MRCOG Board to maintain the five-year Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS), provide technical assistance to communities and entities pursuing EDA funding, and develop projects that result in EDA investment in the region.	x	Ongoing. As the CEDS is a “living document”, it is adjusted annually and reevaluated fully every five years. The process builds leadership, enhances cooperation, and fosters public ownership and enthusiasm. The 2020 CEDS included the voices of nearly 200 diverse stakeholders from rural and urban communities, public and private sectors, and multiple industry sectors in the region. The document is currently being updated to reflect economic changes in the region as they relate to the COVID-19 pandemic.
Manage the administration of the EDA grants for the Partnership for Community Action and the Village of Los Lunas.	x	Ongoing. The Partnership for Community Action (PCA) – will meet their June 2022 completion date for the construction of a “Social Enterprise Center” in the south valley which will house Southwest Creations Collaborative”. Meanwhile, the Village of Los Lunas – which is constructing an 18- inch waterline project may have to request a two-month extension depending on how quickly they are able to submit surveys of historical properties to the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO).
Work with regional partners and economic development professionals to monitor economic development trends.	x	Ongoing. For the past two years, the majority of growing a regional, local, collaborative economy occurred with MRCOG regional partners and economic development professionals through zoom meetings. As the pandemic has evolved into a more manageable framework due to the advancement and development of a vaccine, staff has been able to engage in more discussions with regional partners – both from the public and private sectors – to monitor trends.

Goal/Objective	"x" if complete	Status:
<b><i>Program: Economic Development – Augusta Meyers</i></b>		
Work with NewMARC (New Mexico Association of Regional Councils) on common economic development objectives, such as NewMARC source material, FUNDIt, and implementing and updating the statewide CEDS.	x	Ongoing. As a member of NewMARC, the MRCOG collaborates with six other regional councils of government across New Mexico in addressing issues like regional and municipal planning; economic and community development; pollution control; transportation planning; transit administration; water resource planning; regional hazard mitigation, data collection and analysis, and emergency planning. We meet at least once a year to update objectives and inform the statewide CEDS.
Coordinate and assist in managing Workforce Development initiatives for the region.	x	There is continual crossover with Workforce Development and MRCOG Economic Development. Currently, MRCOG is helping to facilitate an application by WCCNM for EDA American Recovery Plan Act (ARPA) funds for an EDA funding opportunity called the "Good Jobs Challenge" (GJC). The GJC aims to connect Americans with the training opportunities they need to develop in-demand skills that lead to good jobs and long-term careers. The deadline for submission is Feb 10, 2022.
Provide communication for the coordination of new economic development projects related to the region through direct and social media outreach.	x	Ongoing. The social media platforms for this initiative have been created, and the equipment needs to accomplish this goal are currently being assessed. The plan is to have the communication structure live by late spring 2022.

Goal/Objective	"x" if complete	Status:
<b>Program: Regional and Local Planning – Bianca Borg</b>		
Respond to all requests for planning assistance from member governments (i.e. with Infrastructure Capital Improvement Plans (ICIP), Asset Management Plans, land use planning, and Community Development Block Grant applications) including mapping assistance.	x	Staff continues to provide planning assistance for several member governments including: nearing the completion of an update to the Village of Corrales zoning code, updated land use maps in ArcGIS for Rio Communities, and beginning work on a project to update the Comprehensive Plan (as well as drafting an Asset Management Plan) for the Village of San Ysidro.
Conduct at least one Planning Commissioners Workshop.	x	The Planning Commission Workshop was held on June 25, 2021 and was attended by 86 people (not including the presenters). The upcoming legalization of cannabis was discussed, and assistance was offered to member agencies, in the development of regulations for recreational cannabis in their jurisdictions.
Provide staff support for the MRCOG Water Resources Board (WRB).	x	The Water Resources Board has been on hold because of the pandemic. We are currently working with the chairperson to resume the regular meetings of this board beginning in April of 2022.
Act as fiscal agent for local governments as appropriate.	x	MRCOG is currently the fiscal agent for seven communities.
Provide technical assistance to member governments in the area of economic recovery in response to COVID-19.		The Regional Planning Program has contracted with MRWM Landscape Architects to draft an Economic Recovery and Resiliency Plan which will provide actionable strategies for our member agencies to aid them in the economic recovery from COVID-19.
Work with the Village of Corrales and project steering committee to update the Village's zoning ordinance.	x	The work with the steering committee is complete.

Goal/Objective	"x" if complete	Status:
<b>Program: Workforce Development Program – Arthur Martinez</b>		
<p>Provide services and outreach to employers and job seekers in the Central Region.</p>	<p>x</p>	<p>As part of the COVID-19 response, walk-in traffic and in-person appointments are available in the Central Region New Mexico Workforce Connection Centers. The centers have done well with a hybrid approach of in-person services and virtual services that are still being provided via phone, email, and video conferencing to ensure services are available to all customers.</p> <p>There have been many lessons learned during the COVID-19 pandemic, and staff, as well as partners have quickly grown and improved the services that can be delivered effectively under all conditions.</p> <p>WCCNM incorporated available technologies and tools, in addition to investing and developing much needed technology upgrades.</p> <p>There continues to be a priority emphasis on marketing and promoting available services for unemployed individuals/dislocated workers preparing for re-employment due to federal unemployment benefits ending in September.</p> <p>As the WCCNM has adapted the marketing mix to the COVID-19 crisis, e-blasts and social media have been invaluable modes of communication. To reach more a greater audience and have an additional avenue to outreach to youth and young adults, staff added TikTok to the list of social media platforms.</p> <p>WCCNM will continue increase social media activity while also continuing to use traditional modes like email marketing to ensure that we are reaching all of our target audiences in a variety of ways.</p>

Goal/Objective	"x" if complete	Status:
<b>Program: Workforce Development Program – Arthur Martinez</b>		
<p>Identify the needs of, and successfully support job-seekers through classroom and virtual training, on-the-job training (OJT), and work experience opportunities in high demand occupations.</p>	x	<p>Outreach and recruitment to training providers has been conducted to ascertain new courses and possibilities in alignment with demand occupations.</p> <p>Managers have reviewed requests from participants and staff with regard to identified needs of our customers. As a result, we are now able to provide laptops to eligible customers who participate in virtual learning or require a laptop for their course work.</p> <p>Case managers have spent additional time working with ex-offenders and customers who have very little work experience. Through the provision of this additional service, we continue to successfully utilize the adult work experience programs.</p> <p>We are working to solicit new and existing employers to hire a new type of labor force; those that are in process of re-training in a new high demand career pathway as a result of COVID.</p>
<p>Strengthen our involvement with the economic development, education community and Central Region industry leaders, focusing on the workforce-system, community based and local government partners- to prepare the available workforce in our region for emerging industries and address the Central Region’s workforce needs and skills gap.</p>	x	<p>The WCCNM Economic Development Committee held its first monthly meeting on April 2, 2021. There are 31 Committee Members representing economic development organizations from the state and Central Region. Discussions included EDA ARPA grant opportunities, Build Back Better and Good Jobs Challenge. The Build Back Better Regional Challenge Phase 1 awards were made in December 2021 and includes two awards from the Central Region: Albuquerque Hispano Chamber of Commerce – Create New Mexico, and CNM – Growing the Space Technology Industry in the central Rio Grande Valley of New Mexico. The Good Jobs Challenge grant applications are due February 10, 2022.</p>

Goal/Objective	“x” if complete	Status:
<b>Program: Workforce Development Program – Arthur Martinez</b>		
Implement the WIOA Title I.B Adult & Dislocated Worker Program, awarded to the MRCOG in May 2021 by the Workforce Connection of Central NM.	x	MRCOG has successfully transitioned the WIOA Adult and Dislocated Program from SER Jobs for Progress to the MRCOG. All position vacancies have been filled, training has been provided to all new staff and all existing staff have been updated and provided information regarding changes. 519 Adult, 279 Dislocated Worker and 56 Dislocated Worker Grant (DWG) eligible participants have been served for a total of 854.
Re-examine the Central Region labor market information to access industries that may not return to pre-pandemic levels and also new industries and occupations that are emerging both as a result of COVID-19 and the private sector innovations.	x	During FY21, the Central Region was still feeling the hard impact of the pandemic. According to the NMDWS November 2021 Labor Market Review, the New Mexico labor force participation rate was 57% in November 2021 compared to 58% in November 2020. The accommodation and food service had the highest turnover and the lowest retention, and will likely not return to pre-pandemic levels until late 2023 at soonest, depending on how well we are able to control Omicron and any new COVID-19 variants that follow. The low labor force participation rate, combined with many New Mexico job seekers changing industries indicates a shift in worker perspectives and opportunities for WCCNM to train the workforce to enter in-demand industries such as Healthcare & Social Assistance and Construction—demand for skilled workers in both industries is forecasted to increase with the influx of Federal recovery funds the state is receiving. Private sector innovations during FY21 have largely focused on expanding the Space Technology Industry in New Mexico, which CNM’s recent EDA Build Back Better grant award to develop the Space Technology Industry in the central Rio Grande Valley illustrates.

Goal/Objective	"x" if complete	Status:
<b>Program: Workforce Development Program – Arthur Martinez</b>		
<p>Provide educational resources to train, or re-train, individuals to industry standards through occupational skills training and work-based learning with a focus to increase industry recognized credentials and certifications with an emphasis for occupations and industries that may be diminished due to COVID.</p>	x	<p>The WIOA Youth Program has provided funds through Individual Training Accounts (ITA's) to 46 youth from July through December 2021 to train in and receive industry recognized credentials in high demand occupations. The Labor Market workshop provided to youth participants has encouraged more interest in occupational skills training. 90 youth have been placed for work-based learning opportunities in their career area of interest to gain more knowledge and skills. Many of these placements have led to enrollment in further training programs.</p>
<p>Sustain and increase partnerships that provide outreach to youth, young adults and adult basic education individuals who have dropped out or stopped out of high school or college through on-site college and career counseling.</p>	x	<p>The Workforce Connection is a part of the NMCAN "Transition Age Youth ECHO" project with monthly meetings to promote partnership, cross-sector learning, and improvements to streamline services and increase support for transition age youth impacted by systems in New Mexico.</p> <p>Staff continues to work with Albuquerque EMS Corps which provides strong career pathways for youth adults into the healthcare industry. Albuquerque EMS Corps are interviewing and selecting students for the second cohort, to begin in January. Two participants have applied and await admissions.</p> <p>The Pre-Apprenticeship program with Associated Builders and Contractors (ABC) is currently recruiting for their second cohort, scheduled to begin mid-January. Referrals and interest in the program are moving slowly; there is currently one WIOA participant.</p> <p>Recruitment for the Pre-Apprenticeship program with Associated General Contractors (AGC) has passed as AGC looks for a new instructor.</p>

Goal/Objective	"x" if complete	Status:
<b>Program: Workforce Development Program – Arthur Martinez</b>		
<p>Implement new marketing\outreach strategies for the Workforce Connection of Central NM workforce system with a continued concentration on remote and virtual support.</p>	<p>x</p>	<p>Virtual services &amp; outreach highlights include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Program orientations for Title I.B Adult &amp; Dislocated Worker program and TAA program, labor market information sessions, one-on-one career counseling appointments, youth program intakes, and other services performed over the phone, through video recordings, via video conference, and through email.</li> <li>• Weekly “Hot Jobs” announcement on social media that highlight employers actively and quickly hiring for multiple openings. There have been 60 episodes of “Hot Jobs” produced on IGTV as of November 2021.</li> <li>• Staff are working on developing improved electronic fillable PDF forms.</li> <li>• Resume, interview, and soft skills webinar workshops continue to be promoted via e-blasts and social media.</li> <li>• Workforce programs are working to better support students through digital learning challenges.</li> <li>• A new series of short 15-second videos highlighting youth participants speaking about their training/education programs, on-the-job training, and work experience are airing on KRQE and are being shared on social media.</li> </ul> <p>Staff have assisted and resolved close to 9,000 unemployment insurance inquires.</p>

Goal/Objective	“x” if complete	Status:
<b>Program: Workforce Development Program – Arthur Martinez</b>		
Continue efforts for sector strategies for information technology and healthcare industries and related in-demand occupations.	x	<p>Aligned as one of the Central Region’s sector strategies, staff continues to focus on expanding healthcare apprenticeship opportunities through TruMont’s RN-Resident Registered Apprenticeship program. Several meetings with employers around the state were organized with TruMont, resulting in potential partnership opportunities.</p> <p>Conversations with interested employers continue. Additionally, staff are working with WIOA Service Providers to determine how they can partner with healthcare providers to support apprentices enrolled in the TruMont RN-Resident program.</p>
Actively promote work experience strategies to include apprenticeships (industry-recognized and registered), internships, and work experience.	x	<p>The WIOA Youth Program continues its partnerships with Associated Builders and Contractors and Associated General Contractors for pre-apprenticeship programs in the Construction industry. Several planning meetings have been held and classes are planned for February or March 2022. The WIOA Youth Services Provider (YDI) has worked closely with CYFD on its Emergency Medical Service program, with WilderWood Equine Therapy and Loving Thunder to promote work experience or internships for participants receiving their certification through the program. Business recruitment is ongoing to promote youth employment opportunities and work with employers to enroll as worksites for work experience. Work experience continues to be promoted through social media. The WIOA Youth Program will kick off the new internship program in January 2022 and has identified employers and training programs to partner with for internships.</p>

Goal/Objective	"x" if complete	Status:
<b>Program: Workforce Development Program – Arthur Martinez</b>		
		<p>(Cont.) The WIOA Adult and Dislocation Worker Program works with leading industry organizations to identify apprenticeship employers who are interested in sharing their knowledge via apprenticeship, internships and transitional jobs. Additionally, they recruit employers via various job boards by matching their listed vacancies to our new trainee graduates in an effort to help them obtain actual work experience and potential job placement at a self-sufficient wage.</p>
<p>Implement technology related solutions to increase WCCNM’s capacity and quality of service and provide services on varied platforms with emphasis on remote and virtual services.</p>	<p>x</p>	<p>Staff and partners have incorporated all available technologies and tools, in addition to investing and developing much needed tech upgrades including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• cloud-based communications system for phone, text, and video conferencing (RingCentral);</li> <li>• a new WCCNM website (<a href="http://www.wccnm.org">www.wccnm.org</a>) that provides robust information about all services and programs available in the New Mexico Workforce Connection centers in the Central Region;</li> <li>• an online partner referral system that is embedded in the WCCNM intranet; and,</li> <li>• an employer/business services inquiry tool on the new website that allows for businesses to quickly submit their workforce needs to business team representatives with a define process, workflow, and tracking database on the backend.</li> </ul>

Goal/Objective	“x” if complete	Status:
<b>Program: Workforce Development Program – Arthur Martinez</b>		
<p>Increase use of Continuous Quality Improvement processes and procedures related to strategies defined in the Local Workforce Development 4-Year Plan.</p>	<p>x</p>	<p>The WCCNM Board’s Continuous Quality Improvements (CQI) subcommittee was launched in summer 2021. The ultimate goal is to develop a clear protocol for continuous improvement planning and monitoring that can be used throughout the WCCNM network and WCCNM Board subcommittees. This committee will also oversee the development of several initial CQI Plans, in order to test and assess whether the continuous improvement processes developed are effective for WCCNM’s efforts. This committee will be temporary; once CQI methods have been formalized and handed off to the appropriate standing committees, the WCCNM CQI Committee will cease operation but may choose to assemble, on an annual basis or at the WCCNM’s Chair direction, to identify CQI priority items.</p> <p>The WCCNM CQI committee began meeting in August 2021. The committee is also overseeing its first formal CQI plan, the WIOA Youth Program PY21 Continuous Improvement Plan, which it will monitor for the remainder of PY21. The WIOA Youth CQI plan tracks 14 different performance metrics and involves biweekly meetings.</p> <p>Staff supporting the committee are undergoing training with the American Society for Quality on continuous quality improvement planning, the material from which will be used to support the committee’s work. Staff will also assemble a “CQI Toolkit” during PY21 that individuals throughout the WCCNM will be able to use to develop their own CQI initiatives or plan projects using continuous improvements strategies in the future.</p>

Goal/Objective	"x" if complete	Status:
<b>Program: Workforce Development Program – Arthur Martinez</b>		
Pursue additional funding via USDOL-ETA Workforce Grants and foundation funding opportunities.	x	As of December 30, 2021, the USDOL has not re-released the FY2020 H-1B One Workforce funding opportunity, as was anticipated. In July 2021, the US Department of Commerce, Economic Development Agency issued six separate ARPA grant funding announcements. The WCCNM began preparing a response to the EDA Good Jobs Challenge grant in December 2021. The WCCNM has partnered with UNM to create the <i>Real Jobs Alliance</i> and is proposing to develop a new employer-driven workforce training system for the IT/Tech, Healthcare & Social Assistance, and Construction Industry Sectors. The WCCNM <i>Real Jobs Alliance</i> will request approximately \$20M to complete the System Development, Program Design and Program Implementation phases within a 36-month Period of Performance. The grant application is due on February 10, 2022, with an expected award date in September 2022. If successful, the WCCNM will make subawards to UNM and other partners that may be identified during the System Development phase.

## REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLANNING

KENDRA MONTANARI, TRANSPORTATION PLANNING & TECHNICAL SERVICES MANAGER  
STEVEN MONTIEL, TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM MANAGER, FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION

### **FY22 Objective:**

Monitor progress of *Connections 2040 Metropolitan Transportation Plan* (MTP) and process amendments if necessary.

### **FY22 Objective Status:**

Complete. No amendments necessary to the current MTP. The current long-range plan is *Connections 2040 Metropolitan Transportation Plan* which was adopted by the Metropolitan Transportation Board in April of 2020. Staff continues to monitor and the plan and implement the goals and objectives of the plan for all transportation planning purposes.

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### **FY22 Objective:**

Maintain the current FFY 2020-2025 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and process revisions as necessary.

### **FY22 Objective Status:**

Ongoing. The FFY 2020-2025 TIP became effective October 1, 2019. TIP administrative modifications continue to be processed monthly and TIP amendments on a quarterly basis. TIP development has moved from a 2-year cycle to a 4-year cycle. MRMPO staff will begin the development of the FFY 2024-2029 TIP in Fall of 2022. The current TIP is continually monitored for Fiscal Constraint as required by federal law.

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### **FY22 Objective:**

Collect, analyze and disseminate new socioeconomic data, Census transportation data and regional household travel survey results for integration into the travel demand model.

### **FY22 Objective Status:**

Ongoing. New data releases have been analyzed and disseminated to member agencies and the public for demographic economic and transportation purposes. Staff will continue to work with member agencies as new data is released.

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**FY22 Objective:**

Assist in finalizing efforts in the 2020 U.S. Census.

**FY22 Objective Status:**

MRMPO has worked with the Census Bureau to facilitate workshops and spread the word through its networks about the importance of answering the Census 2020. Staff continue to work with new Census products and data releases. Staff will coordinate with all member agencies to ensure they receive all the latest Census data and product updates.

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**FY22 Objective:**

GIS and Interactive Mapping: continue implementation of a cloud-based, collaborative on-line management system for maps, data, and other geospatial information.

**FY22 Objective Status:**

Ongoing. MRMPO staff continue making progress towards building an enterprise GIS system.

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**FY22 Objective:**

Maintain and update, as necessary, the Congestion Management Process in the Albuquerque Metropolitan Planning Area (AMPA), including collection of travel time data across the region.

**FY22 Objective Status:**

Ongoing. Travel time and crash datasets and reports are continuously updated as new data becomes available.

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**FY22 Objective:**

Finalize assistance with the implementation of the Regional Transportation Management Center (RTMC).

**FY22 Objective Status:**

Construction of the new RTMC was completed in FFY 2021. This was a regional effort and staff played a major role in the coordination of this project. ITS stakeholders within the AMPA region have established a RTMC that will serve as a central command facility for regional transportation management. The project is sponsored by the NMDOT with support from ITS stakeholders in the AMPA and is in the early stages of occupancy. The primary roadway operators committed to the project include NMDOT ITS, Bernalillo County Public Works, City of Albuquerque Municipal Development, Bernalillo County Sheriff Traffic, and Albuquerque Police Department Traffic.

Benefits of a coordinated RTMC include:

- Real time alerting of roadway conditions such as traveler information, traffic/incident management, and weather conditions.
- Co-location/presence for transportation, dispatch, and first responders to coordinate more effectively.
- Coordinated response among roadway operators and responders on incidents and adverse travel conditions for timely incident response and improved public safety.
- Shared utilization of existing ITS infrastructure and deployments among agencies within the AMPA and NMDOT ITS across the State.

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**FY22 Objective:**

Coordinate the Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) activities and maintenance of the Albuquerque Metropolitan Planning Area's (AMPA) Regional ITS Architecture.

**FY22 Objective Status:**

Ongoing. The AMPA Regional ITS Architecture establishes a regional framework for coordinated ITS deployment for ITS projects. This document was developed by the ITS Subcommittee in close coordination with the New Mexico Department of Transportation NMDOT ITS Bureau pursuant to FHWA/FTA ITS Architecture and Standards Final Rule (Rule 940.11).

The Regional ITS Architecture is being maintained and coordinated on a regular basis.

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**FY22 Objective:**

Continue the coordinated development of a regional Incident Management Plan for coordinating responses to incidents on Interstate and arterial highways in order to minimize impacts to drivers. This is a joint project with NMDOT, Albuquerque, Bernalillo County and Rio Rancho. This project will continue for 2-3 years.

**FY22 Objective Status:**

Final documents were generated on the Incident Management Plan with acceptance of the final document. The plan establishes inter-agency processes and communication protocols for recommended incident response and communications to clear the incident and safely and efficiently return to normal traffic flow. The plan will be used operationally in support of the new Regional Traffic Management Center. The final draft of the Concept of Operations is under review and is anticipated to be delivered in the first part of FFY22. Phase 2 of the regional Incident Management Plan will continue into 2022.

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**FY22 Objective:**

Assist various governmental agencies with their planning efforts to include moving transportation capital projects through the project development process, local government agreement process and federal funding obligation process.

**FY22 Objective Status:**

Ongoing. MRMPO is currently assisting the Village of Los Lunas with the Los Lunas Corridor River Crossing Project. Staff meets with the Village on a monthly basis to coordinate the project's development process and provide technical assistance as needed.

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**FY22 Objective:**

Implement the FFY 2021 & 2022 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) and budgets.

**FY22 Objective Status:**

The FFY 2021 & 2022 UPWP was formally amended in October/November of 2021 in order to accommodate FFY 2021 carryover funds into the FFY 2022 budget. The amendment also incorporated actual FTA 5303 award amounts for the FFY 2022 budget to replace estimated figures. The amendment also included budget changes to reflect increased indirect costs for FFY 2022. The current UPWP can be found on the MRCOG website. MRMPO is on track with the budget and will close out the FFY as planned. Work on the FFY 2023 & 2024 UPWP will begin in Spring of 2022.

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**FY22 Objective:**

Complete administrative tasks for the MPO (i.e. budget adjustments, revisions to the UPWP).

**FY22 Objective Status:**

MRMPO began implementation of the FFY 2022 budget on October 1, 2021. Staff continues to work closely with MRCOG accounting and monitor all revenues and expenses. Staff completed an amendment to the UPWP/budget to carryover FFY 2021 funds into FFY 2022 for the various funding categories. This revision took place during the quarterly update period identified in the NMDOT's Planning Procedures Manual. This task is ongoing and is monitored monthly.

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**FY22 Objective:**

Continue upgrades of various programs and modeling software.

**FY22 Objective Status:**

This is an ongoing task.

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**TRAFFIC SURVEILLANCE PROGRAM**

**KENDRA MONTANARI, TRANSPORTATION PLANNING & TECHNICAL SERVICES MANAGER  
STEVEN MONTIEL, TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM MANAGER, FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION**

**FY22 Objective:**

Collect all required traffic counts: volume, vehicle classification, special counts, COVID counts, and bicycle and pedestrian counts in the four-county area (approx. 900 per year) and transmit them to NMDOT for incorporation into the Highway Performance Monitoring System (HPMS).

**FY22 Objective Status:**

Routine traffic counts were processed and transmitted to NMDOT. Monthly processing and transmittal to NMDOT continues. MRMPO reinitiated the monthly transmittal process with NMDOT and both parties have completed another successful year for the traffic counts program.

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**FY22 Objective:**

Complete and distribute the annual Traffic Flow Maps.

**FY22 Objective Status:**

MRMPO staff finalized the *FY 2020 MRMPO Traffic Flow Map* in early FY 2022. MRMPO will reassess the development schedule of the FY 2021 MRMPO Traffic Flow Map. This is currently under review and a 2021 product is expected to be delivered by the end of this FFY.

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**REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLANNING**

**BIANCA BORG, REGIONAL PLANNING MANAGER**

**FY22 Objective:**

Maintain a coordinated transportation planning process for local public agencies, including tribes, located in the Regional Transportation Planning Organization (RTPO) area.

**FY22 Objective Status:**

Ongoing. The MRCOG RTPO Committee meets bimonthly to coordinate rural transportation planning efforts. For COVID safety, all six of the RTPO Committee meetings were held in a virtual only format. MRCOG staff also publishes an electronic newsletter that is distributed to RTPO members, alternates, and interested parties.

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**FY22 Objective:**

Provide staff support to local and regional health initiatives that emphasize transportation as a means for combative and preventative measures for improving health and wellness.

**FY22 Objective Status:**

Ongoing. MRRTPO staff attends the local health councils to coordinate local and regional health initiatives, including the Healthy Torrance Communities. Representatives from the health councils also attend the MRRTPO Committee meetings.

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**FY22 Objective:**

Provide technical assistance, such as mapping, strategic long-range planning and project development to participating local agencies and tribes.

**FY22 Objective Status:**

Ongoing. MRRTPO staff works with RTPO member governments to provide maps and project development regarding rural transportation projects upon request. Some examples include: Continuing to develop regional and local maps for the Regional Transportation Plan, monitoring new federal infrastructure legislation and associated funding opportunities for potential member entity projects, and coordinating with member entities to help identify potential transportation projects.

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**FY22 Objective:**

Implement and update the RTPO Regional Transportation Plan.

**FY22 Objective Status:**

Ongoing. MRRTPO staff is working closely with NMDOT staff to update the RTPO Regional Transportation Plan. We are estimating that the plan will be completed in the Spring of 2022.

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**MRCOG/RIO METRO REGIONAL TRANSIT DISTRICT PLANNING**

**TONY SYLVESTER, SPECIAL PROJECTS MANAGER**

**FY22 Objective:**

Select a contractor and negotiate an operations and maintenance contract for the New Mexico Rail Runner Express. As in past years, the operations and maintenance contractor will have numerous responsibilities: staffing and operating the Rail Runner, maintaining the fleet and facilities, maintaining the railroad track and right of way, and various construction responsibilities. Additionally, starting with this agreement, contractor responsibilities also include the operations and maintenance of the positive train control (PTC) system.

**FY22 Objective Status:**

Complete. After issuing a solicitation, evaluating proposals, and negotiating terms, Rio Metro entered into an agreement with Herzog Transit Services, Inc. to provide operational and maintenance services for the New Mexico Rail Runner Express. The eight-year agreement includes an option for an extension and includes the new responsibilities required for PTC and communications systems operations and maintenance.

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**FY22 Objective:**

Complete engineering/construction of ongoing rail and transit capital projects. Rail projects include 1) completing the installation of Wi-Fi along Rail Runner corridor in order to provide redundancy for the PTC system as well as for rider amenity, 2) competing the improvements on the NMDOT-owned tracks between Lamy and Madrid (used almost exclusively by Amtrak's Southwest Chief and funded through the NMDOT's CRISI grant), and 3) assisting the Town of Bernalillo to advance the construction of Phase II of the pedestrian improvements and related rail crossing projects. Transit related capital projects include completing the design and entering into a contract for the construction of the Valencia County Transit Facility in the Village of Los Lunas.

**FY22 Objective Status:**

Ongoing. Progress and current status 1) while implementation of the Wi-Fi system has not been completed all capital improvements have been contracted; environmental and historic preservation clearance have been completed; and, installation of antennas and other wayside equipment is significantly complete, 2) upgrading the signal on NMDOT owned track between Lamy and Madrid is underway and progressing smoothly, and 3) engineering has been completed for the TOB pedestrian improvements. Due to supply chain cost increases the project is in the process of being rescope and rebid. Valencia County Transit Facility design and engineering activities are also progressing and are at 60% - slightly behind schedule due to project scope modifications resulting from supply chain cost increases.

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**FY22 Objective:**

Recognizing the substandard condition of the existing Rail Runner maintenance facility, complete initial planning and design activities needed to pursue discretionary funding opportunities and to advance the project. These activities include site assessment, environmental review activities and land acquisition.

**FY22 Objective Status:**

Ongoing. Rio Metro has secured planning and engineering services to confirm and advance the recommendations of the 2016 Maintenance Facility Master Plan. Facility programming, conceptual design and initial site analysis have been completed and an updated costs estimate has been developed. Environmental review activities, property acquisition activities and funding source identification have been initiated and planned to be complete by the end of the fiscal year.

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**FY22 Objective:**

With the decline of COVID-19 related restrictions, monitor ridership levels on the Rail Runner and Rio Metro transit services. Anticipate and evaluate opportunities to regain ridership through service, operations, fleet and facility modifications. Implement a marketing /public information campaign to attract riders back to rail and transit services.

**FY22 Objective Status:**

Ridership monitoring continues and the marketing department is underway with an initial social media rider outreach/input effort. Scope of work developed and professional services are being secured for a NMRX Service Adjustment study. As drafted, the study will include peer research, an analysis of current ridership characteristics and rider input. The findings of this study will be used to inform potential service and operations modifications.

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**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT**

**AUGUSTA MEYERS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM MANAGER**

**FY22 Objective:**

Work with local economic development partners to prevent, prepare for, and respond to economic injury as a result of the 2020 COVID-19 pandemic.

**FY22 Objective Status:**

Ongoing. The Mid-Region Council of Governments (MRCOG) is developing an Economic Development Resiliency and Recovery Plan that will serve as an addendum to the Mid-Region of New Mexico Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS). MRCOG is partnering with MRWM Landscape Architects, ESP, HatchForm, and RS21 to explore events and disasters that may cause disruption in the economy. The plan will address how events, including the COVID-19 pandemic, expose and exacerbate social and economic weaknesses. The plan will develop goals, strategies, policies, programs, and potential project priorities to reduce disasters' impacts on communities and improve economic resilience to hazards or changing conditions.

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**FY22 Objective:**

Work with local economic development partners and advisory board members of the MRCOG Board to maintain the five-year Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy (CEDS), provide technical assistance to communities and entities pursuing EDA funding, and develop projects that result in EDA investment in the region.

**FY22 Objective Status:**

Ongoing. As the CEDS is a “living document”, it is adjusted annually and reevaluated fully every five years. The process builds leadership, enhances cooperation, and fosters public ownership and enthusiasm. The 2020 CEDS included the voices of nearly 200 diverse stakeholders from rural and urban communities, public and private sectors, and multiple industry sectors in the region. The document is currently being updated to reflect economic changes in the region as they relate to the COVID-19 pandemic.

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**FY22 Objective:**

Manage the administration of the EDA grants for the Partnership for Community Action and the Village of Los Lunas.

**FY22 Objective Status:**

Ongoing. The Partnership for Community Action (PCA) – will meet their June 2022 completion date for the construction of a “Social Enterprise Center” in the south valley which will house Southwest Creations Collaborative. The Village of Los Lunas, which is constructing an 18- inch waterline project, may have to request a two-month extension depending on how quickly they are able to submit surveys of historical properties to the State Historic Preservation Office.

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**FY22 Objective:**

Work with regional partners and economic development professionals to monitor economic development trends.

**FY22 Objective Status:**

Ongoing. For the past two years, the majority of growing a regional, local, collaborative economy occurred with MRCOG regional partners and economic development professionals through zoom meetings. As the pandemic has evolved into a more manageable framework due to the advancement and development of a vaccine, MRCOG Economic Development staff has been able to engage in more discussions with regional partners – both from the public and private sectors – to monitor trends.

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**FY22 Objective:**

Work with NewMARC (New Mexico Association of Regional Councils) on common economic development objectives, such as NewMARC source material, FUNDIt, and implementing and updating the statewide CEDS.

**FY22 Objective Status:**

Ongoing. As a member of the New Mexico Association of Regional Councils (NewMARC), the MRCOG collaborates with six other regional councils of government across New Mexico in addressing issues like regional and municipal planning; economic and community development; pollution control; transportation planning; transit administration; water resource planning; regional hazard mitigation, data collection and analysis, and emergency planning. We meet at least once a year to update objectives and inform the statewide CEDS.

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**FY22 Objective:**

Coordinate and assist in managing Workforce Development initiatives for the region.

**FY22 Objective Status:**

Ongoing. There is continual crossover with Workforce Development and MRCOG Economic Development. Currently, MRCOG is helping to facilitate an application by WCCNM for EDA American Recovery Plan Act (ARPA) funds for an EDA funding opportunity called the “Good Jobs Challenge” (GJC). The GJC aims to connect Americans with the training opportunities they need to develop in-demand skills that lead to good jobs and long-term careers. The deadline for submission is Feb 10, 2022.

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**FY22 Objective:**

Provide communication for the coordination of new economic development projects related to the region through direct and social media outreach.

**FY22 Objective Status:**

Ongoing. The social media platforms for this MRCOG initiative have been created, and the equipment needs to accomplish this goal are currently being assessed. The plan is to have the communication structure live by late spring 2022.

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## REGIONAL AND LOCAL PLANNING

BIANCA BORG, REGIONAL PLANNING MANAGER

### **FY22 Objective:**

Respond to all requests for planning assistance from member governments (i.e. with Infrastructure Capital Improvement Plans (ICIP), Asset Management Plans, land use planning, and Community Development Block Grant applications) including mapping assistance.

### **FY22 Objective Status:**

The Regional Planning staff continue to provide planning assistance for several member governments including: nearing the completion of an update to the Village of Corrales zoning code, updated land use maps in ArcGIS for Rio Communities, and beginning work on a project to update the Comprehensive Plan (as well as drafting an Asset Management Plan) for the Village of San Ysidro.

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### **FY22 Objective:**

Conduct at least one Planning Commissioners Workshop.

### **FY22 Objective Status:**

The Planning Commission Workshop was held on June 25, 2021 and was attended by 86 people (not including the presenters). The upcoming legalization of cannabis was discussed, and assistance was offered to member agencies, in the development of regulations for recreational cannabis in their jurisdictions.

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### **FY22 Objective:**

Provide staff support for the MRCOG Water Resources Board.

### **FY22 Objective Status:**

The Water Resources Board has been on hold because of the pandemic. We are currently working with the chairperson to resume the regular meetings of this board beginning in April of 2022.

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**FY22 Objective:**

Act as fiscal agent for local governments as appropriate.

**FY22 Objective Status:**

MRCOG is currently the fiscal agent for seven communities.

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**FY22 Objective:**

Provide technical assistance to member governments in the area of economic recovery in response to COVID-19.

**FY22 Objective Status:**

The Regional Planning Program has contracted with MRWM Landscape Architects to draft an Economic Recovery and Resiliency Plan which will provide actionable strategies for our member agencies to aid them in the economic recovery from COVID-19.

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**FY22 Objective:**

Work with the Village of Corrales and project steering committee to update the Village's zoning ordinance.

**FY22 Objective Status:**

The work with the steering committee is complete.

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## WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT

### ARTHUR MARTINEZ, WORKFORCE ADMINISTRATOR

#### **FY22 Objective:**

Provide services and outreach to employers and job seekers in the Central Region.

#### **FY22 Objective Status:**

As of March 2020, as a precautionary measure to mitigate the spread of coronavirus disease (COVID-19), the WCCNM suspended all in-person services in the New Mexico Workforce

As part of the COVID-19 response, walk-in traffic and in-person appointments are available in the Central Region New Mexico Workforce Connection Centers. A strict process that includes precautionary measures to keep all staff and customers safe is in place and also allows for service data tracking. The centers have done well with a hybrid approach of in-person services and virtual services that are still being provided via phone, email, and video conferencing to ensure services are available to all customers. All centers continue to receive signage, equipment, cleaning supplies, and other necessary protective gear, and all in-person appointments are being logged in the Lobby Central system to track visitors and maintain capacity restrictions. The Operations Team continually stays informed of all guidance and public health orders from federal, state, local, tribal, and/or territorial health agencies and incorporates recommendations and resources into daily operations and the Service Delivery Plan as needed.

The centers continue to provide virtual services to enhance the marketing strategy, increase our business reach, and expand the customer base. There have been many lessons learned during the COVID-19 pandemic, and the Operations Team and the Workforce Connection partners have quickly grown and improved the services that can be delivered effectively under all conditions.

WCCNM incorporated all available technologies and tools, in addition to investing and developing much needed tech upgrades including:

- a cloud-based communications system for phone, text, and video conferencing (RingCentral);
- a new WCCNM website ([www.wccnm.org](http://www.wccnm.org)) with a UX design that provides robust information about all services and programs available in the New Mexico Workforce Connection centers in the Central Region;
- an online partner referral system that is embedded in the WCCNM intranet; and,
- an employer/business services inquiry tool on the new website that allows for businesses to quickly submit their workforce needs to business team representatives with a define process, workflow, and tracking database on the backend.

There continues to be a priority emphasis on marketing and promoting available services for unemployed individuals/dislocated workers preparing for re-employment due to federal unemployment benefits ending in September. Focused marketing of services includes:

- building their skills;
- engaging in career prep activities such as resume writing and interview skills;
- exploring short-term training programs that lead to in-demand careers;
- considering all types of training opportunities include apprenticeship and apprenticeship pathway programs; and,
- taking advantage of New Mexico Workforce Connection virtual webinars, workshops, and videos that they can attend from anywhere and view on their phone, tablet, or PC.

As the WCCNM has adapted the marketing mix to the COVID-19 crisis, e-blasts and social media have been invaluable modes of communication, with social media presence growing an average of close to 1,000 page views every 30 days, and an average of 11,000 people who saw content from posts, news feeds, and stories over a 30-day period. To reach more a greater audience and have an additional avenue to outreach to youth and young adults, the Workforce Connection added TikTok to the list of social media platforms for the region.

WCCNM will continue increase social media activity while also continuing to use traditional modes like email marketing to ensure that we are reaching all of our target audiences in a variety of ways.

- Facebook (Workforce Connection of Central New Mexico) – 3,649 followers
- Twitter (@NMWorkforce) – 500 followers
- Instagram (nmworkforce) – 1,076 followers
- You Tube (Workforce Connection of Central New Mexico) – 44 subscribers
- TikTok (nmworkforce) – 37 followers, 175 likes & averaging 701 views per month

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### **FY22 Objective:**

Identify the needs of, and successfully support job-seekers through classroom and virtual training, on-the-job training (OJT), and work experience opportunities in high demand occupations.

### **FY22 Objective Status:**

- Outreach and recruitment to new and existing training providers has been conducted to ascertain new courses and possibilities in alignment with demand occupations.
- Managers have reviewed requests from participants and staff with regard to identified needs of our customers. As a result, we are now able to provide laptops to eligible customers who participate in virtual learning or require a laptop for their course work and are unable to obtain it through any other means. This option has been very successful.

- Case managers have spent a great deal of additional time working with ex-offenders and general customers who have very little work experience. These target groups require regular assistance with basic work skills such as punctuality, attendance, interpersonal relationships with co-workers/supervisors and more. Through the provision of this additional service, we continue to successfully utilize the adult work experience programs.
  - We are currently working to solicit new and existing employers to hire a new type of labor force; those that are in process of re-training in a new high demand career pathway as a result of COVID.
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**FY22 Objective:**

Strengthen our involvement with the economic development, education community and Central Region industry leaders, focusing on the workforce-system, community based and local government partners- to prepare the available workforce in our region for emerging industries and address the Central Region’s workforce needs and skills gap.

**FY22 Objective Status:**

The WCCNM Economic Development Committee held its first monthly meeting on April 2, 2021. The mission of the WCCNM Economic Development Committee is to forge alliances with Central Region economic development organizations, businesses, communities, and training providers, identify workforce needs, develop strategies for county level planning, bridge skill gaps and support economic development initiatives. There are currently 31 Committee Members representing economic development organizations from the state and Central Region, as well as WCCNM Board Chair, NMDWS, MRCOG, and NMWC staff. Mark Zientek with the City of Albuquerque Economic Development Department leads the monthly meetings, which include group discussion on current economic and workforce strategies and challenges, and funding opportunities within the region and the state. Recent discussions have focused on the EDA ARPA grant opportunities, including Build Back Better and Good Jobs Challenge. The Build Back Better Regional Challenge Phase 1 awards were made in December 2021 and includes two awards from the Central Region: Albuquerque Hispano Chamber of Commerce – Create New Mexico, and CNM – Growing the Space Technology Industry in the central Rio Grande Valley of New Mexico. The Good Jobs Challenge grant applications are due February 10, 2022.

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**FY22 Objective:**

Implement the WIOA Title I.B Adult & Dislocated Worker Program, awarded to the MRCOG in May 2021 by the Workforce Connection of Central NM.

**FY22 Objective Status:**

MRCOG has successfully transitioned the WIOA Adult and Dislocated Program from SER Jobs for Progress to the MRCOG. The following activities were completed within the From September through December 2021:

- All position vacancies have been filled to enable continuance of our full array of service to walk-in and virtual access customers.
- Training has been provided to all new staff and all existing staff have been updated and provided information regarding changes.
- 519 Adult, 279 Dislocated Worker and 56 Dislocated Worker Grant (DWG) eligible participants have been served for a total of 854.
- All pertaining policies and procedures have been implemented and are in progress of update.
- WIOA forms have been updated and implemented as required.

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**FY22 Objective:**

Re-examine the Central Region labor market information to access industries that may not return to pre-pandemic levels and also new industries and occupations that are emerging both as a result of COVID-19 and the private sector innovations.

**FY22 Objective Status:**

During FY21, the Central Region was still feeling the hard impact of the pandemic. According to the November 2021 Labor Market Review, the New Mexico labor force participation rate was 57% in November 2021 compared to 58% in November 2020. The accommodation and food service had the highest turnover and the lowest retention. 38.9 percent of the COVID cohort (FY20 & FY21) who worked in accommodation and food service worked for that same employer 18 months later. About one in nine worked for another employer in the same industry, but nearly half worked either in another industry or couldn't be found in the wage records. The low labor force participation rate, combined with many job seekers changing industries indicates a shift in worker perspectives and opportunities for WCCNM to train the workforce to enter in-demand industries such as Healthcare & Social Assistance and Construction—demand for skilled workers in both industries is forecasted to increase with the influx of Federal recovery funds the state is receiving. Private sector innovations during FY21 have largely focused on expanding the Space Technology Industry, which CNM's recent EDA Build Back Better grant award to develop the Space Technology Industry in the central Rio Grande Valley illustrates.

**FY22 Objective:**

Provide educational resources to train, or re-train, individuals to industry standards through occupational skills training and work-based learning with a focus to increase industry recognized credentials and certifications with an emphasis for occupations and industries that may be diminished due to COVID.

**FY22 Objective Status:**

The WIOA Youth Program has provided funds through Individual Training Accounts (ITA's) to 46 youth from July through December 2021 to train in and receive industry recognized credentials in high demand occupations. The Labor Market workshop provided to youth participants has encouraged more interest in occupational skills training. In addition, 90 youth have been placed for work-based learning opportunities in their career area of interest to gain more knowledge and skills in the field. Many of these placements have led to enrollment in further training programs.

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**FY22 Objective:**

Sustain and increase partnerships that provide outreach to youth, young adults and adult basic education individuals who have dropped out or stopped out of high school or college through on-site college and career counseling.

**FY22 Objective Status:**

The Workforce Connection is a part of the NMCAN "Transition Age Youth ECHO" project with monthly meetings that bring together various organizational representatives and voices to the table striving to improve the ability to approach challenges from a multiplicity of angles and with more resources for young people. The team comes together to promote authentic partnership, cross-sector learning, and improvements to streamline services and increase support for transition age youth impacted by systems in New Mexico.

The WIOA Youth Program continues to work Albuquerque EMS Corps which provides strong career pathways for youth adults into the healthcare industry. Albuquerque EMS Corps are interviewing and selecting students for the second cohort, which will begin in January. Two WIOA participants have applied to the program and await admissions decisions.

The Pre-Apprenticeship program with Associated Builders and Contractors (ABC) is currently recruiting for the second cohort of participants, which is scheduled to begin mid-January. Referrals and interest in the program are moving slowly; there are currently one WIOA participants who has completed the required paperwork.

Recruitment for the Pre-Apprenticeship program with Associated General Contractors (AGC) has passed as AGC looks for a new instructor.

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**FY22 Objective:**

Implement new marketing\outreach strategies for the Workforce Connection of Central NM workforce system with a continued concentration on remote and virtual support.

**FY22 Objective Status:**

Virtual services & outreach highlights include:

- Program orientations for Title I.B Adult & Dislocated Worker program and TAA program, labor market information sessions, one-on-one career counseling appointments, youth program intakes, and other services performed over the phone, through video recordings, via video conference, and through email (Title I.B Adult & Dislocated Worker program YouTube videos for participants (provided by WIOA staff to participants via private link)
- Weekly “Hot Jobs” announcement on IGTV, Facebook Live, and other WCCNM social media sites that highlights employers actively and quickly hiring for multiple openings. There have been 60 episodes of “Hot Jobs” produced on IGTV as of November 2021.
- All program teams are working on developing improved electronic fillable PDF forms for customers to use. The Title I.B Adult & Dislocated Worker team finalized new labor market information and WIOA application forms that have had a very positive response from participants.
- Resume, interview, and soft skills webinar workshops ([www.dws.state.nm.us/workshops](http://www.dws.state.nm.us/workshops)) have been heavily promoted in the Central Region via e-blasts and social media posts/story highlights.
- WIOA Title I.B Adult & Dislocated Worker program, the WIOA Youth program, and other workforce programs are working to better support students through digital learning challenges.
- The WIOA Youth program has a new series of short 15-second videos highlighting youth participants speaking about their training/education programs, on-the-job training, and work experience. The videos are airing on KRQE and are being shared on social media.
- All staff throughout the region help answer general Unemployment Insurance questions and help direct individuals to information that individuals can find in their online accounts, updates from NMDWS website, and the Unemployment Insurance Operations Center. The Operations Team also provides direct assistance to all individual calling about unemployment through the 505-843-1900 number. They have directly assisted and resolved close to 9,000 unemployment inquires in the referral system.

**FY22 Objective:**

Continue efforts for sector strategies for information technology and healthcare industries and related in-demand occupations.

**FY22 Objective Status:**

Aligned as one of the Central Region's sector strategies, the apprenticeship team continues to focus on expanding healthcare apprenticeship opportunities through TruMont's RN-Resident Registered Apprenticeship program. In August, meetings were organized with the leadership at Kindred Healthcare and TruMont, resulting in a potential multi-state opportunity for TruMont to partner with Kindred Healthcare. The apprenticeship team also coordinated an introduction meeting with leadership from the University of New Mexico Hospital and TruMont.

At the request of the State Apprenticeship Office, the Central Region apprenticeship team provided additional assistance to several employers located in the Northern region. A meeting was organized to introduce TruMont to Rehoboth McKinley Christian Healthcare Services in Gallup, resulting in interest to take next steps to enroll apprentices in the TruMont program. Christus St. Vincent Hospital in Santa Fe also expressed interest. Several other organizations requested additional information and their requests were forwarded to TruMont.

Conversations with interested employers continue. Additionally, Apprenticeship Coordinators are working with WIOA Service Providers to determine how they can partner with healthcare providers to support apprentices enrolled in the TruMont RN-Resident program.

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**FY22 Objective:**

Actively promote work experience strategies to include apprenticeships (industry-recognized and registered), internships, and work experience.

**FY22 Objective Status:**

The WIOA Youth Program continues its partnerships with Associated Builders and Contractors and Associated General Contractors for pre-apprenticeship programs in the Construction industry. Several planning meetings have been held and classes are planned for February or March 2022. The WIOA Youth Services Provider (YDI) has also worked closely with CYFD on its Emergency Medical Service program to promote work experience or internships for participants receiving their certification through the program. Participants that do not receive certification are offered continued training opportunities to reach successful completion. They are also working with WilderWood Equine Therapy and Loving Thunder to plan internships for participants completing their training program. Business recruitment is ongoing in all counties to promote youth employment opportunities and work with employers to enroll as worksites for work experience. Work experience has also been actively promoted through several social media platforms including flyers and ads on Facebook, Instagram and TikTok both through NM Workforce Connection. The WIOA Youth Program will kick off the new internship program in

January 2022 and has identified employers and training programs to partner with for internships.

The WIOA Adult and Dislocation Worker Program works with leading industry organizations to identify apprenticeship employers who are interested in sharing their knowledge via apprenticeship, internships and transitional jobs. Additionally, they recruit employers via various job boards by matching their listed vacancies to our new trainee graduates in an effort to help them obtain actual work experience and potential job placement at a self-sufficient wage.

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**FY22 Objective:**

Implement technology related solutions to increase WCCNM’s capacity and quality of service and provide services on varied platforms with emphasis on remote and virtual services.

**FY22 Objective Status:**

The WCCNM Operations Team and the New Mexico Workforce Connection partners have incorporated all available technologies and tools, in addition to investing and developing much needed tech upgrades including:

- cloud-based communications system for phone, text, and video conferencing (RingCentral);
  - a new WCCNM website ([www.wccnm.org](http://www.wccnm.org)) with a UX design that provides robust information about all services and programs available in the New Mexico Workforce Connection centers in the Central Region;
  - an online partner referral system that is embedded in the WCCNM intranet; and,
  - an employer/business services inquiry tool on the new website that allows for businesses to quickly submit their workforce needs to business team representatives with a define process, workflow, and tracking database on the backend.
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**FY22 Objective:**

Increase use of Continuous Quality Improvement processes and procedures related to strategies defined in the Local Workforce Development 4-Year Plan.

**FY22 Objective Status:**

The WCCNM Board's Continuous Quality Improvements (CQI) subcommittee was launched in summer 2021. The goal of the WCCNM CQI Committee is to support the development of a formal CQI planning process and to prioritize efforts for CQI. The ultimate goal is to develop a clear protocol for continuous improvement planning and monitoring that can be used throughout the WCCNM network and WCCNM Board subcommittees. This committee will also oversee the development of several initial CQI Plans, in order to test and assess whether the continuous improvement processes developed are effective for WCCNM's efforts. This committee will be temporary; once CQI methods have been formalized and handed off to the appropriate standing committees, the CQI Committee will cease operation but may choose to assemble, on an annual basis or at the WCCNM's Chair direction, to identify CQI priority items. The committee's formal mission and objectives are as follows:

**WCCNM Continuous Quality Improvements (CQI) Committee**

**Mission:** The WCCNM Continuous Improvements Committee will prioritize, review, and oversee the development, implementation, and monitoring of CQI Plans for WIOA Service Providers, operations, the Administrative Entity and Fiscal Agent.

**Objectives and Action Items:** The WCCNM CQI Committee will provide feedback and input on the development of continuous improvement processes to be used throughout the WCCNM network, and will participate in the development, implementation, and monitoring of CQI Plans for Service Providers, operations, the Administrative Entity and Fiscal Agent.

The committee began meeting in August 2021 to develop formal CQI processes (templates, planning tools, etc.) and to pilot a CQI plan for the Youth Program, which was identified as a priority for CQI efforts due to the impacts of COVID-19. Staff developed a formal CQI Plan template, which the committee reviewed and approved for use during its October meeting. The committee is also overseeing its first formal CQI plan, the Youth Program PY21 Continuous Improvement Plan, which it will monitor for the remainder of PY21. The Youth CQI plan tracks 14 different performance metrics and involves biweekly meetings with staff and performance presentations at CQI committee meetings.

Staff supporting the committee are undergoing training with the American Society for Quality on continuous quality improvement planning, the material from which will be used to support the committee's work. Staff will also assemble a "CQI Toolkit" during PY21, containing planning tools, templates, and other resources that individuals throughout the WCCNM will be able to use to develop their own CQI initiatives or plan projects using continuous improvements strategies in the future.

**FY22 Objective:**

Pursue additional funding via USDOL-ETA Workforce Grants and foundation funding opportunities.

**FY22 Objective Status:**

As of December 30, 2021, the USDOL has not re-released the FY2020 H-1B One Workforce funding opportunity, as was anticipated. In July 2021, the US Department of Commerce, Economic Development Agency issued six separate ARPA grant funding announcements. The WCCNM began preparing a response to the EDA Good Jobs Challenge grant in December 2021. The WCCNM has partnered with UNM to create the *Real Jobs Alliance* and is proposing to develop a new employer-driven workforce training system for the IT/Tech, Healthcare & Social Assistance, and Construction Industry Sectors. The WCCNM *Real Jobs Alliance* will request approximately \$20M to complete the System Development, Program Design and Program Implementation phases within a 36-month Period of Performance. The grant application is due on February 10, 2022, with an expected award date in September 2022. If successful, the WCCNM will make subawards to UNM and other partners that may be identified during the System Development phase.

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