

Pueblo of Laguna

Infrastructure Projects

Governor John Antonio, Sr



History



Federal Oversight & Management

- Community-wide utilities, paved roads, and modern government buildings were not common at the Pueblo of Laguna until the 1950s and 1960s. Initial construction was paternalistically managed by federal agencies such as the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the Indian Health Service, and Department of Housing and Urban Development.
- Compared to many non-tribal communities, the Pueblo of Laguna has a relatively short history and less experience developing and financing infrastructure projects.

Chronic Underfunding

- The federal government has a trust responsibility to the Pueblo of Laguna, which includes the responsibility to meet basic needs for infrastructure. However, federal grants for infrastructure are insufficient on tribal lands.

Challenges - Revenues



Revenue Generation

- The Pueblo of Laguna, like most tribal governments, has limited tax revenue. An income tax & a gross receipts tax that would heavily affect low-income community members would be inappropriate.
- The Pueblo's gross receipts tax revenues are primarily from construction.
- Its tax revenue is insufficient to fund construction & limited for debt repayment.
- The Pueblo of Laguna's gaming revenues, like all gaming revenues, are volatile, and potentially inadequate to fund infrastructure or repay debt.

Challenges - Finance

Financing non-standard issues

- The Pueblo of Laguna, like most tribes, has land held in trust by the federal government & cannot be used as collateral for debt; preventing many entities from making loans to tribes.
- The Pueblo of Laguna, like all federally-recognized tribes, has sovereign immunity. This typically requires modification to standard loan terms for dispute resolution, which often discourages entities from making loans to tribes.

Bonding Capacity

- The Pueblo of Laguna does not issue infrastructure bonds.
- Reservation Land cannot be used as collateral



Plan, design, Construct



- Funding the Planning Phase of Tribal Infrastructure Projects
- The Pueblo of Laguna is a firm believer and utilizes the planning, design & construction process.
- Good project development includes a planning phase, in which the community defines its needs; assesses land, environmental, cultural & engineering conditions; and develops preliminary design and cost estimates.

Challenges - Funds for Planning



- There are few resources for tribes to fund planning phase.
- For example, state CDBG funds are set aside for non-tribal communities to use for planning, with minimal competition. However, these funds cannot be allocated to tribes, under state and federal regulations.
- In contrast, tribes must apply for highly competitive ICDBG funds at the national level, & the use of these funds for planning is restricted, so it is highly unlikely any tribe will receive them for this purpose.
- Effective planning includes multiple opportunities for community input about goals and visions for the future, which can lead to a range of options for infrastructure. However, community input is often interpreted as being limited to public hearings, and planning is often interpreted as being solely engineering assessments.
- New Mexico severance tax bond funds must be linked to specific infrastructure projects, & cannot be used for broad-based planning.
- The general fund could support broad-based planning. However, the Tribal Infrastructure Fund has only been funded with severance tax revenue.

State of New Mexico Funding



The Pueblo of Laguna has success with these grant funding programs

- New Mexico Capital Outlay- legislative sponsorship
- Public Education Department Capital Outlay Bureau
- Indian Affairs Department Tribal Infrastructure Fund (TIF)
- Aging & Long-term Service Department- Capital Projects Bureau

Loan Programs- NMFA

- Business Financing- New Markets Tax Credit
- Public Projects Revolving Fund

Challenges - NM Funding



Challenges with Funding from the State of New Mexico

- New Mexico's Tribal Infrastructure Fund (TIF) is an asset to the Pueblo of Laguna for tribal infrastructure funding. However, TIF funds are limited and competitive.
- State funding is highly competitive, and for communities with limited financial resources, the funding must be targeted to the most fundamental infrastructure needs such as utilities, transportation, and public safety facilities. Wealthier communities meet these basic needs with their own resources, and use state funding, particularly capital outlay funds, for quality of life and economic enhancement projects. This is inequitable.
- The Pueblo of Laguna solves these barriers by using Pueblo funds to complete planning studies with a PER as a deliverable. We use federal, private and state funds to cobble a complete funding package for the design & construction phases.
- BIA, IHS & USDA funds are leverage for New Mexico Funds in completing projects

Transportation



Transportation Shortfalls needed for:

- (BIA) M-108 Bridge construction,
- (NMDOT) Exit 108 Alignment design
- (NMDOT) L-24 Concrete Box Culvert construction.

Because these project are generally over 10 million dollars, multiple funding sources are needed.

Roads completed:

- St Joseph drive- TIF funds
- Rodeo drive- TIF Funds
- Rt 66 roundabout- TIF/FHWA/NMDOT funds
- Six Villages Bike/Pedestrian trails- DOT TIGER 3 Funds

Bridges completed:

- Old Laguna Bridge
- Seama Village Bridge

Broadband

Broadband shortfalls identified:

- Utilities Authority (UA) fiber connections from Laguna Hill to the UA office
- Fiber to home, fiber to businesses, fiber to Tribal Government complexes
- Expansion of Point-to-point wireless and broadband internet services

The Pueblo just subsidized the local KHI ISP with a two million dollar overhaul of all major equipment (switches, microwave receivers, backhaul), towers limited fiber.





Pueblo of Laguna							
NMTC Totals							
	Amount	Closing Date	CDE	Investor	Leverage Loan	QALICB	Descriptoin
NMTC I	\$ 23,000,000.00		June 29, 2012	NMFA FNM	US Bank	Pueblo of Laguna 4Points Laguna LLC	Water/WasteWater
NMTC II	\$ 7,724,100.00		Septmber 11, 2012		Travois	US Bank	Pueblo of Laguna 4Points Laguna II LLC Wastewater
NMTC III	\$ 8,000,000.00		September 17,2013		NMFA FNM	US Bank	Pueblo of Laguna 4Points Laguna LLC Wastewater
NMTC IV	\$ 10,000,000.00		January 30, 2020	NMFA FNM	US Bank	Pueblo of Laguna 4Points HC Laguna LLC	Healthcare Facility
NMTC V	\$ 6,825,000.00		December 29, 2020		Eco Trust	Wells Fargo	Pueblo of Laguna 4Points Laguna LLC Wastewater
NMTC VI	\$ 14,000,000.00		December 29, 2020		Clearinghouse	Wells Fargo	Pueblo of Laguna 4Points Laguna LLC Wastewater
	\$ 69,549,100.00						
NMTC NMFA FNM							
NMTC I	\$ 23,000,000.00		June 29, 2012	NMFA FNM	US Bank	Pueblo of Laguna 4Points Laguna LLC	Water/WasteWater
NMTC III	\$ 8,000,000.00		September 17,2013		NMFA FNM	US Bank	Pueblo of Laguna 4Points Laguna LLC Wastewater
NMTC IV	\$ 10,000,000.00		January 30, 2020	NMFA FNM	US Bank	Pueblo of Laguna 4Points HC Laguna LLC	Healthcare Facility
	\$ 41,000,000.00						

New Tribal Headquarters

- **New Tribal Headquarters** – Plan, Design and Construction funding sources are needed to upgrade or replace a Tribal Administration Building, due to office space need, outdated mechanical, electrical, and ADA accommodations. Renovations and remodeling of these type of facilities becomes very costly, where full replacements is a more cost effective strategy. Planning is developing for a multi-level building and parking structure using more of an ecofriendly approach.



Home Construction

- The Housing Project Initiative is to build 25 new homes in each village, but infrastructure is not there. Laguna Construction Company and Laguna Economic Advancement were asked to take the lead on the housing project initiative. We are working to coordinate this effort between the Pueblo of Laguna, its entities, and departments and programs needing to work in this together. The POL Housing Priority Team has also been involved in planning and recommendation based off statistical and historical data of our enrollment and economics.

