

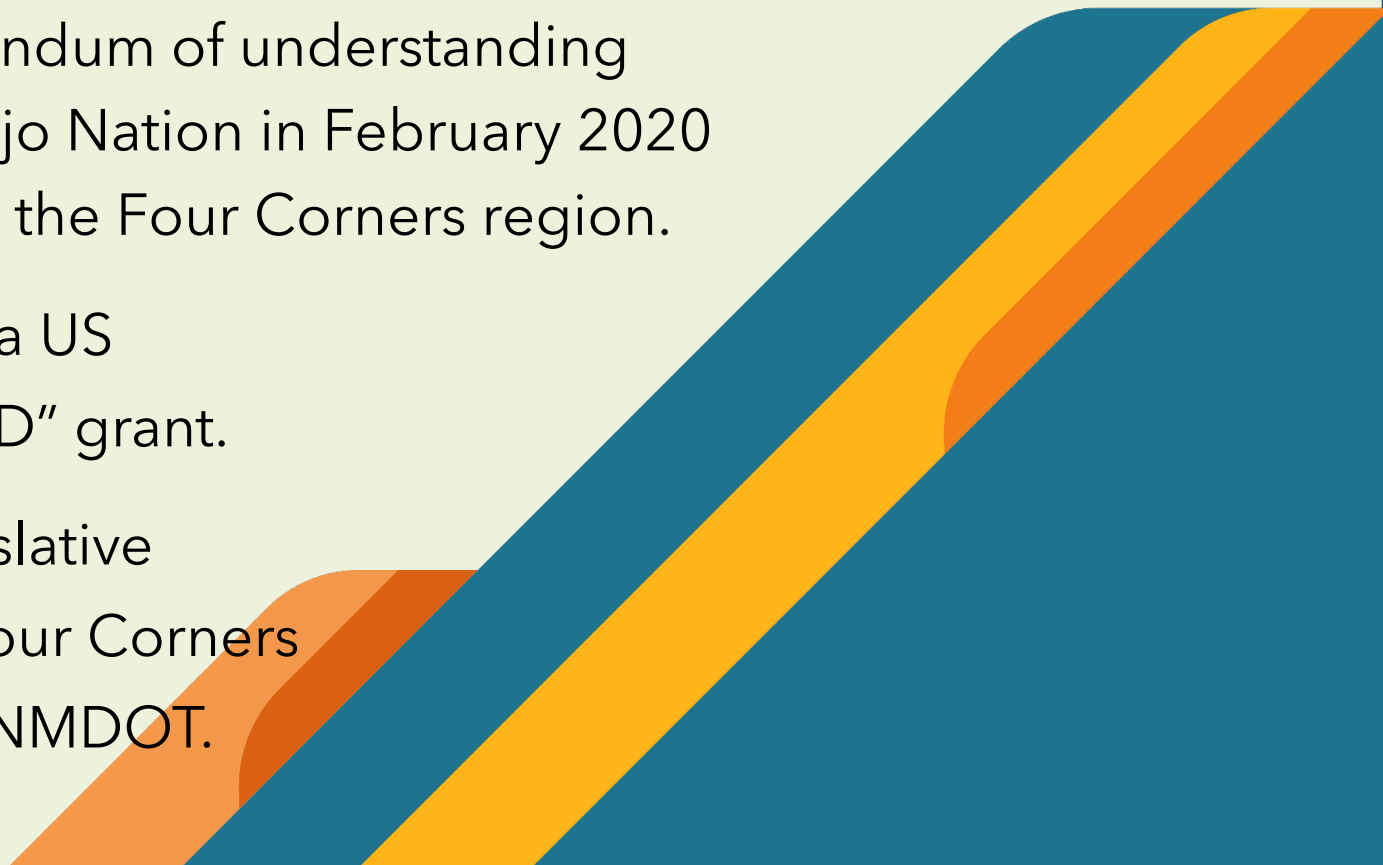
Freight Rail Line Feasibility Study San Juan County, New Mexico

"Opening the doors of economic opportunity for the Four Corners Region"



4 Corners Freight Rail
Feasibility Study

How Did We Get Here?

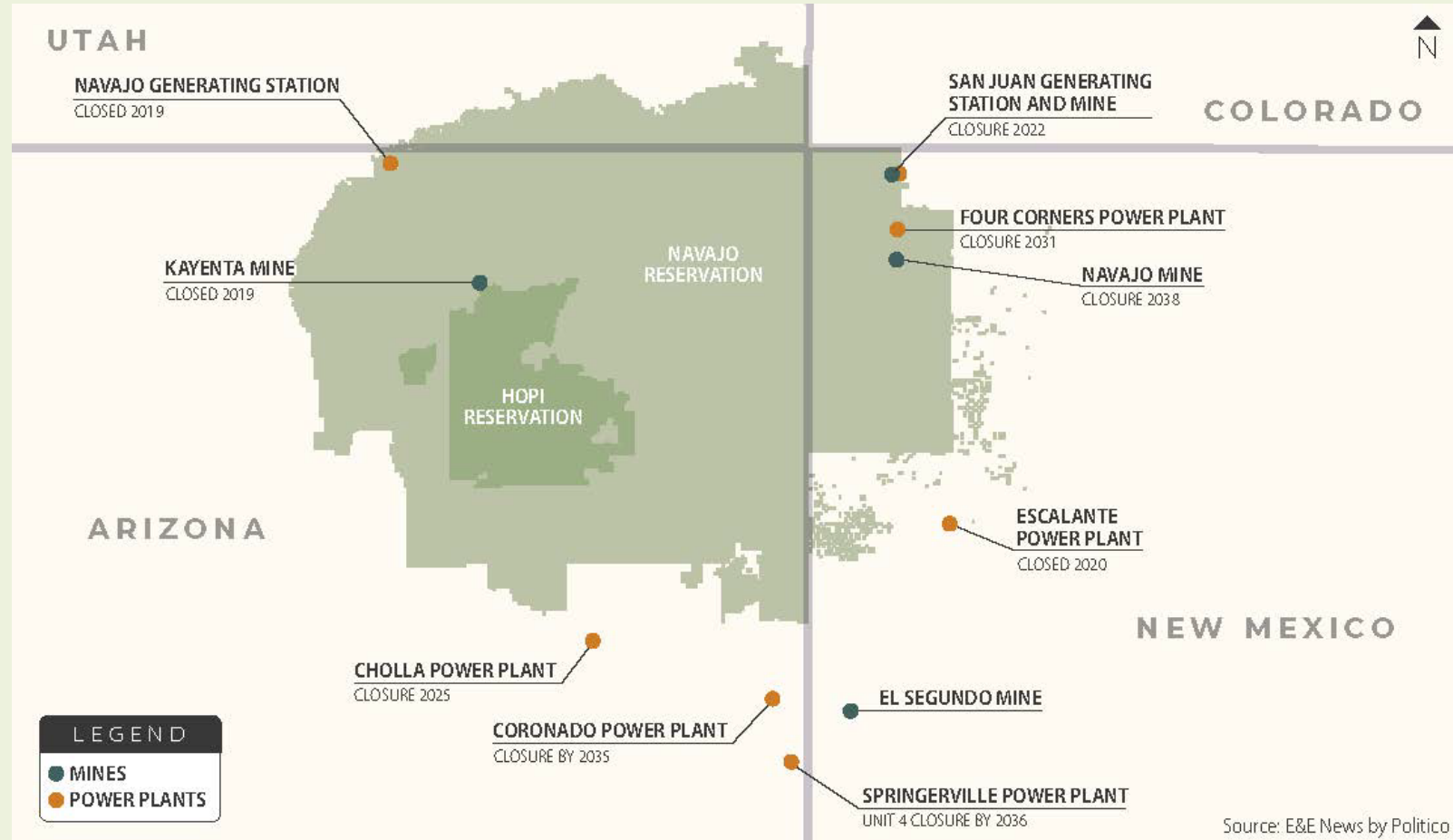
- After 50 years of multiple studies with little progress, new key partnerships and funding are now in place to move the project forward.
 - In February 2020, a historic memorandum of understanding between San Juan County and Navajo Nation in February 2020 created a partnership to bring rail to the Four Corners region.
 - Project awarded \$2 million through a US Department of Transportation “BUILD” grant.
 - Support from San Juan County Legislative Delegation, local elected officials, Four Corners Congressional Delegation, and the NMDOT.
- 

-
- UTAH**
- NAVAJO GENERATING STATION**
CLOSED 2019
- KAYENTA MINE**
CLOSED 2019
- NAVAJO RESERVATION**
- HOPÍ RESERVATION**
- ARIZONA**
- COLORADO**
- SAN JUAN GENERATING STATION AND MINE**
CLOSURE 2022
- FOUR CORNERS POWER PLANT**
CLOSURE 2031
- NAVAJO MINE**
CLOSURE 2038
- ESCALANTE POWER PLANT**
CLOSED 2020
- NEW MEXICO**
- CHOLLA POWER PLANT**
CLOSURE 2025
- CORONADO POWER PLANT**
CLOSURE BY 2035
- EL SEGUNDO MINE**
- SPRINGERVILLE POWER PLANT**
UNIT 4 CLOSURE BY 2036
- LEGEND**
- MINES
 - POWER PLANTS
- Source: E&E News by Politico

Article Link: [The Navajo, circled by coal, see jobs vanish as CO2 falls - E&E News by POLITICO \(eenews.net\)](#)

Why is this so important?

- Combined loss of up to 1,500 direct and indirect jobs for San Juan Generating Station – direct jobs are high-wage @ \$80,000/year – jobs that support extended families of 15+ people.



Article Link: [The Navajo, circled by coal, see jobs vanish as CO2 falls - E&E News by POLITICO \(eenews.net\)](https://www.eenews.net/stories/1060000-the-navajo-circled-by-coal-see-jobs-vanish-as-co2-falls)

Lack of Transportation Infrastructure in the Four Corners Area



AN INDEPENDENT NATION

SUPPORTING THE NAVAJO NATION'S ECONOMIC SOVEREIGNTY

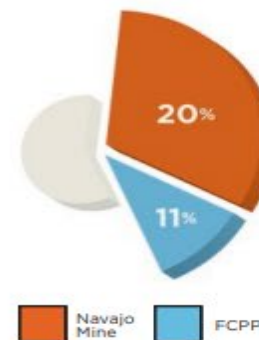
NTEC is devoted to providing sustainable financial and economic resources to its sole shareholder, the Navajo Nation. Our driving purpose is to give the Nation financial strength, jobs, and community benefits through sovereignty over its natural resources.

Support	Total NTEC Contribution
NTEC Taxes & Royalties	\$46,680,000
Employment Wages	\$55,770,000
Navajo Vendors/Contractors	\$7,920,000
Scholarships, Education & Other Community Giving	\$1,570,000
NTEC Community Benefit Fund (CBF)	\$250,000
CHRP	\$2,390,000

\$114,580,000

NTEC ECONOMIC IMPACT ON THE NAVAJO NATION IN 2023

NTEC's total economic contribution to the Navajo Nation exceeded \$114 million in 2023. This included taxes and royalties paid by NTEC from the Navajo Mine, Four Corners Power Plant, and NTEC Helium, as well as payroll to employees on the Nation, contracts with qualified Navajo contractors, and charitable donations. This year's contributions to the Navajo Nation reflected our continued commitment to the Nation's prosperity.



31%

OF THE 2023 NAVAJO NATION GENERAL FUND

came from the combined contributions of the Navajo Mine and Four Corners Power Plant

Support	Navajo Mine	FCPP
Taxes & Royalties	\$43,810,000	\$23,090,000
Employment Wages	\$52,270,000	\$33,380,000
Navajo Vendors/Contractors	\$7,540,000	\$2,780,000

\$162,870,000

NAVAJO MINE & FCPP ECONOMIC IMPACT ON THE NAVAJO NATION IN 2023

Project Benefits

A new connection to the BNSF freight rail network will improve the efficiency of the freight transportation system in the Four Corners region and expand economic opportunities.



Reduce freight traffic on U.S. 491, U.S. 550, and other roads thus decreasing the potential for crashes and providing less congestion and safer transportation.

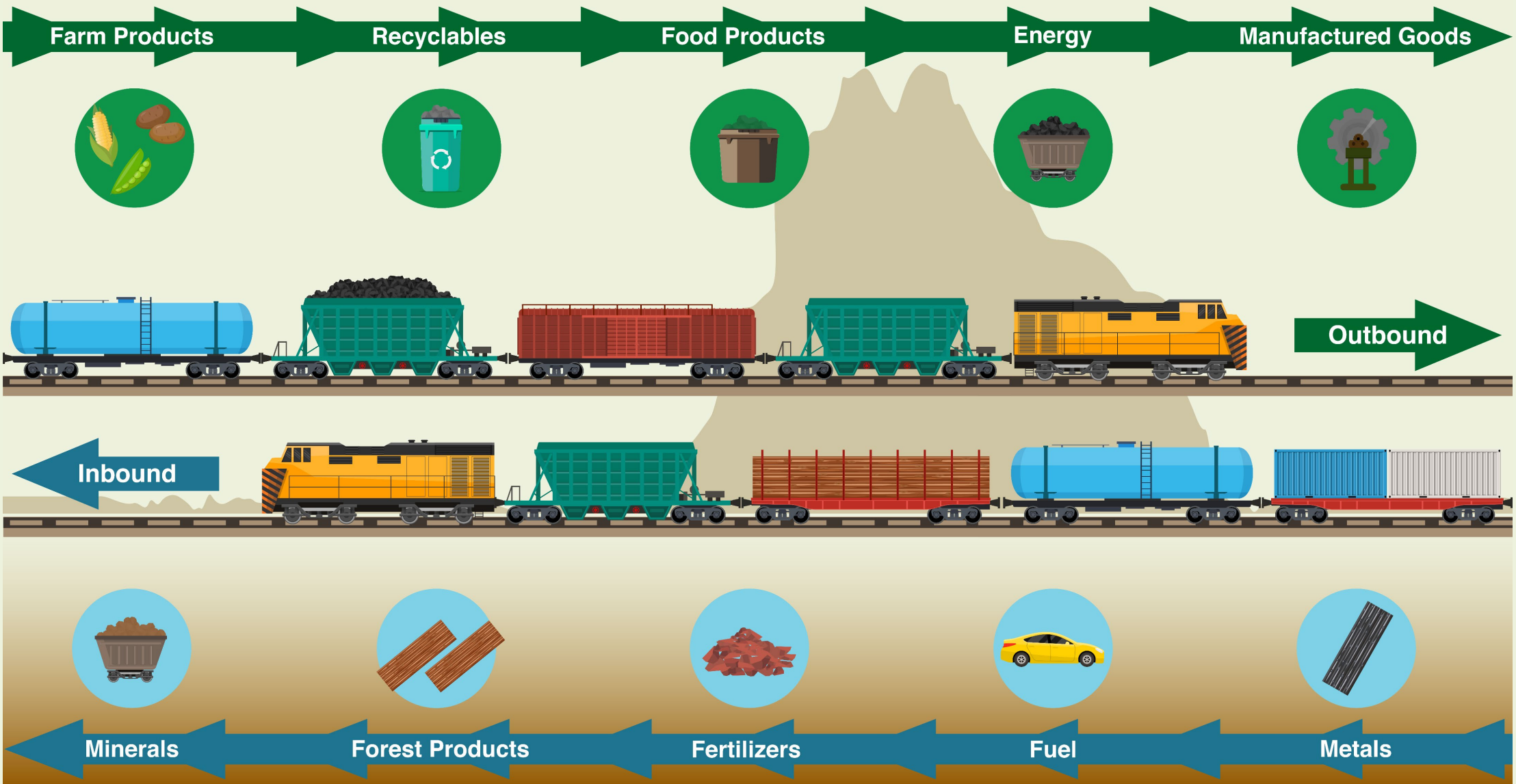
Reduced truck traffic leads to less wear and tear on roads and decreases maintenance costs.

A freight rail connection would reduce the cost of shipping goods to and from the Four Corners region.

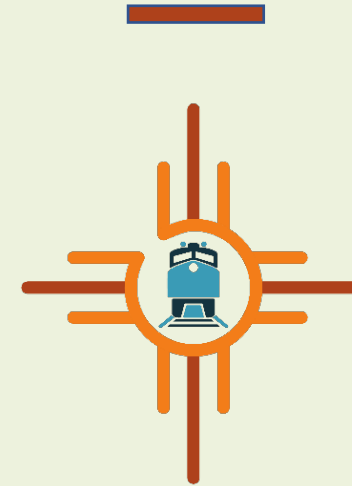
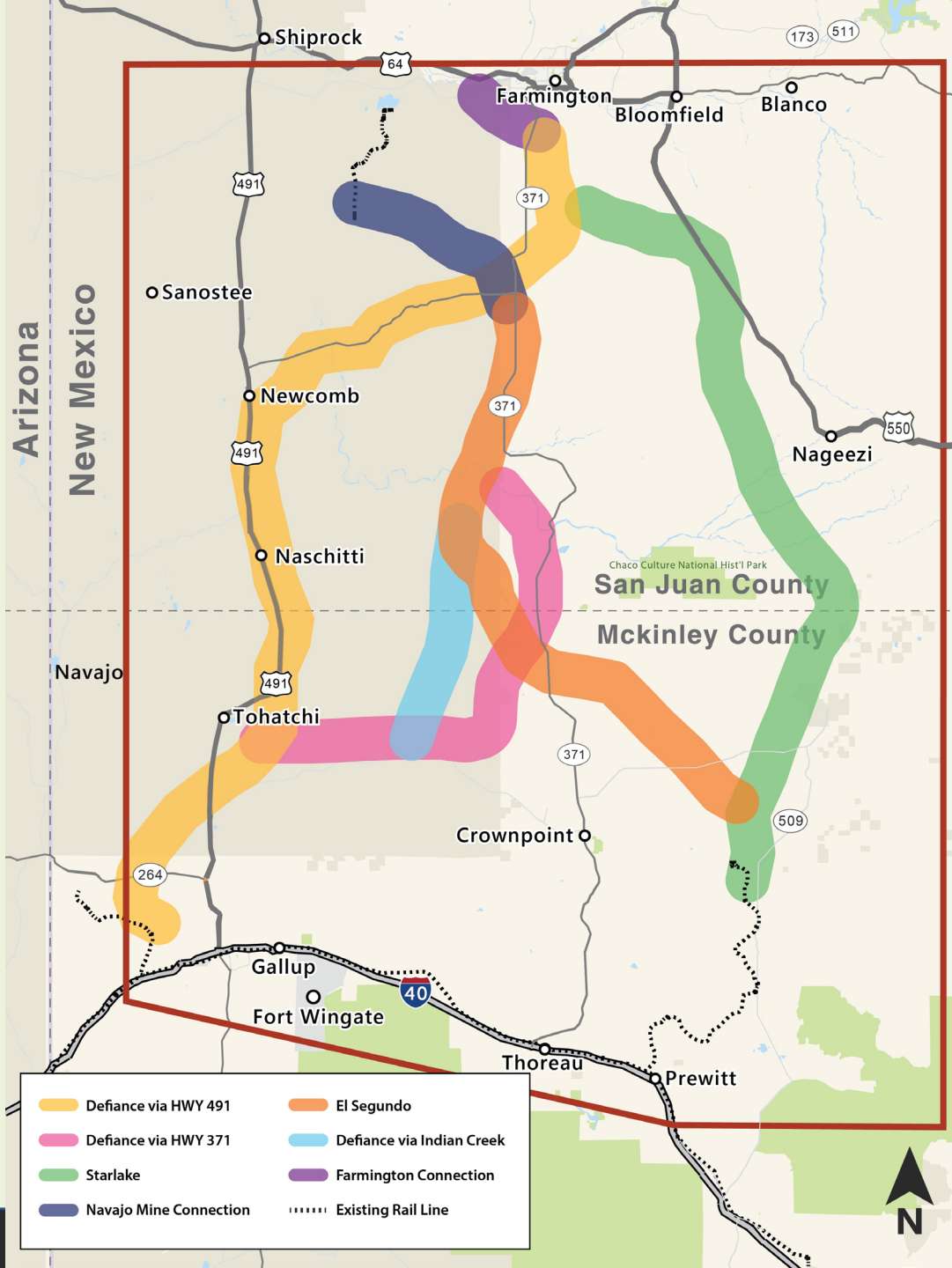
Efficient movement of freight connections to existing BNSF network and decreases shipping costs.

Freight rail can attract businesses looking to expand in the Four Corners region.

Potential Goods Shipped By Rail



Recommended Alignment Routes



- | | |
|------------------------|---------------------------|
| Defiance via HWY 491 | El Segundo |
| Defiance via HWY 371 | Defiance via Indian Creek |
| Starlake | Farmington Connection |
| Navajo Mine Connection | Existing Rail Line |



Public Involvement/ Agency Coordination

- Subcontract with Al Henderson, AHEC and Tom Chee, Consultant
- Outreach and consultation to 32 chapters that will likely be impacted by the project
- Presented to Navajo Nation elected leaders, NNC committees, departments, agencies and other interested parties
- Coordination with BNSF

Four Corners Freight Rail Feasibility Study



YOU'RE INVITED!

Public Information Meetings on the Four Corners Feasibility Study – September 13-14, 2022

San Juan County, the Navajo Nation, and the Federal Railroad Administration are studying the economic feasibility of freight rail service to the Four Corners region. The addition of this service would not only add freight rail to the region but could also potentially reduce commercial traffic, decrease the potential for traffic accidents, and open up the doors of economic opportunity to the region.

The Four Corners Freight Rail Study Team is holding Public Information meetings to inform the study to the community and share information on what the project benefits are, the funding, and the study timeline.



Four Corners Freight Rail

Learn more and share your thoughts!

Public Invited to Informational Meetings on the Four Corners Freight Rail Feasibility Study

YOU'RE INVITED!

June 21 - 22, 2023

San Juan County, the Navajo Nation, and the Federal Railroad Administration are studying the economic feasibility of freight rail service to the Four Corners region. The addition of this service could potentially reduce commercial traffic, decrease the potential for traffic crashes, and open the doors of economic opportunity to the region.

The Four Corners Freight Rail Study Team invites you to participate in the second round of public meetings on Wednesday, June 21, and Thursday, June 22, 2023. The purpose of these meetings is to discuss potential route alignments and the study team's process. Your feedback is important and will help guide the development of this study!

Public Information Meetings

Wednesday, June 21, 4 - 7 p.m.

Newcomb High School, US Highway 491
Newcomb, NM 87455

Thursday, June 22, 4 - 7 p.m.

Navajo Technical University, Lowerpoint Rd,
State Hwy 371 Crownpoint, NM 87313

Persons with disabilities should contact **Mike Stark** at (505) 334-4273 to arrange for assistance. Individuals who require auxiliary aids or a translator for non-English speaking residents for this meeting should contact **San Juan County** at least two days before the meeting so that appropriate arrangements can be made.

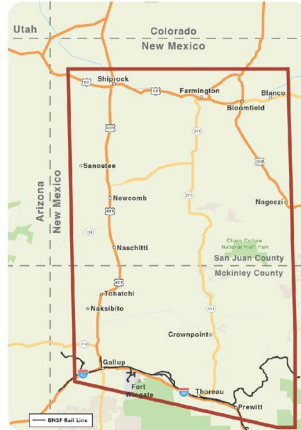
Learn more at: www.4cornersfreightrail.com



Persons with disabilities should contact Mike Stark at (505) 334-4273 to arrange for assistance. Individuals who require auxiliary aids or a translator for non-English speaking residents for this meeting should contact San Juan County at least two days before the meeting so that appropriate arrangements can be made.

Learn more at:

STUDY AREA MAP

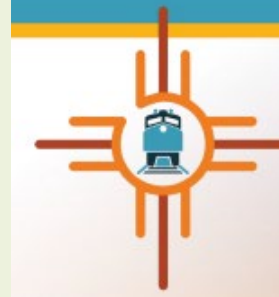


Initial Public Information Meetings

- Two public information meetings held in September of 2022.
 - Sept 13th in Shiprock
 - Sept 14th in Farmington
- Two public information meetings held in June of 2023.
 - June 21 in Newcomb
 - June 22 in Crownpoint
- Meetings were to inform the public about the project.
- Received initial feedback from the public in attendance.

FY 2023-2024 CRISI Grant

In May 2024, San Juan County submitted a grant application and received \$4.0 million in federal funding from the USDOT FRA FY 2023-2024 Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI) funding to advance the next phase of the Four Corners Freight Rail Project - which includes Preliminary Engineering (PE) and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review. The State of New Mexico will provide \$1.0 million in non-federal matching funds.



Four Corners Freight Rail Project

San Juan County, New Mexico

FY 2023-2024 Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and
Safety Improvements Program Grant Application

May 28, 2024

Letters of Support of the CRISI Grant Application

- New Mexico Congressional Delegation
- Navajo Nation
- New Mexico Department of Transportation

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES

DELEGATION OFFICE
STATE OF NEW MEXICO
HART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

June 14, 2024

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE
Washington, DC 20590

RE: Department of Transportation, Federal Railroad Administration, Co
Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI) Program, (FR-CRS-24-4
Freight Rail

Dear Secretary Buttigieg,

Members of the New Mexico Delegation write in support of the New Me
Transportation (NMDOT) and the Navajo Nation's application to the Dep
Transportation Federal Railroad Administration's CRISI Program. The F
Rail Project will significantly enhance freight transportation infrastruc
improving efficiency and safety while promoting economic development.

If awarded, the Four Corners Freight Rail Project will implement the dev
project, including preliminary engineering, detailed project cost estimates
documentation to support a National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) c
will prepare the project for final design and construction in subsequent fu
constructing and upgrading critical rail infrastructure, this project will ad
bottlenecks and provide more reliable and efficient transportation options

March 25, 2024

The Navajo Nation **DR. BUU NYGREN** PRESIDENT
Yideeskáadi Nitsáhákees **RICHELLE MONTAÑO** VICE PRESIDENT

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg
U.S. Secretary of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

I am writing to express my strong support for a Consolidated
(CRISI) grant application to the Federal Railroad Administra
Project. San Juan County, NM and the FRA entered into
Development (BUILD) Agreement (Agreement #69A365214)
fund pre-NEPA project development activities and an alterna
line between San Juan County in the vicinity of Shiprock, N
Railway (BNSF) Gallup Subdivision near Gallup, New Mexico

Prior to execution of the Grant Agreement providing funding
the Navajo Nation signed a memorandum of understand
established a framework of cooperation with respect to
development opportunities in the Four Corners region, locate

The proposed freight rail line will have a significant impact on
of the Navajo Nation, as well as providing a new source of ec
economically depressed region. The Four Corners regio
transportation for large scale transport of feedstock and v
economic development in a coal transition region. This new l
accidents and possible injuries and fatalities due to the use of
traffic will also improve the state of good repair on roadway
thereby, providing a more environmentally friendly alternati
result, the creation of this new connection to the BNSF freight
the overall freight transportation system in the Four Corners r

I appreciate your time and thoughtful consideration of this gr
term economic benefits for the Navajo Nation, San Juan Coun

Sincerely,

Dr. Buu Nygren, President
THE NAVAJO NATION

Post Office Box 7440 • Window Rock, Arizona 86515 • Ph

March 25, 2024

The New Mexico Department of Transportation

May 28, 2024

Amit Bose
Administrator
Federal Railroad Administration
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave SE
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Administrator Bose,

The New Mexico Department of Transportation is pleased to support San Juan County's
application for a CRISI grant for a proposed freight railroad connection between the Four
Corners region and BNSF Railway's Southern Transcon route. San Juan County will use CRISI
grant funds to conduct preliminary engineering and environmental review activities for the
proposed freight railroad line. NMDOT commits to ensuring the County will obtain all local
match requirements for this grant.

The Four Corners region has not been connected to the national freight railroad system
since a narrow-gauge railroad connection to Antonito, Colorado was abandoned more than
fifty years ago. Long-distance freight shipments to or from the Four Corners region travel by
truck between the Four Corners area and the nearest railroad transloading facilities. The
nearest railroad facilities are along the BNSF Transcon, which is more than 100 miles south
of Farmington, New Mexico, the largest city in the Four Corners region. Other truck
shipments travel nearly 200 miles to rail facilities in the Albuquerque area.

A freight rail connection to the Four Corners region would reduce the cost of shipping goods
to and from the Four Corners region. This would benefit existing businesses in the Four
Corners region, and help to attract new businesses to the region. Business and government
representatives from San Juan County have been evaluating options for constructing a
railroad line since 2010. Constructing a freight railroad to the Four Corners region is
identified as a priority in the 2014 New Mexico State Rail Plan, developed by NMDOT. In
2024, San Juan County is completing a planning study of this project that includes selecting
the preferred alignment for the proposed rail line.

In addition to the economic benefit for the Four Corners region of having a connection to
the national rail network, NMDOT will benefit from reducing the number of miles existing
freight must travel on New Mexico highways before it is transferred to rail. This freight
includes heavy truck shipments of coal from southwestern Colorado trucked to Gallup, New
Mexico, and of hydraulic fracturing sand trucked from Gallup to oilfields in San Juan County.
The wear and tear from heavy trucks carrying these commodities shortens the lifecycle of
the New Mexico highways that carry them.

**Michelle Lujan
Grisham**
Governor

Ricky Serna
Cabinet Secretary

Commissioners

Charndelle Sienkewicz
Commissioner
District 1

Gary Tunjes
Commissioner
District 2

Hilma E. Chayonweeth
Commissioner, Vice Chairman
District 3

Walter G. Adams
Commissioner, Chairman
District 4

Thomas C. Taylor
Commissioner
District 5

Charles Landstrom
Commissioner, Secretary
District 6

General Office | P.O. Box 1149 | Santa Fe, NM 87504

Tell us what you think & stay connected

- Take a moment to share your thoughts
- Sign up to receive study updates



Fill out a comment card, or just leave us your email address.
We'll add you to our contact list and ensure you get the latest updates and information about the Four Corners Freight Rail Line Feasibility Study.

Visit the website: **4CornersFreightRail.com**



info@4cornersfreightrail.com

Questions?



4 Corners Freight Rail

Feasibility Study