

October 1, 2019

TRIBAL CONSULTATION ANNUAL REPORT
July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019

Agency Overview

The Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) is a multimodal transportation agency that is responsible for planning, building and operating the state highway system, including approximately 1,237 miles of the system that traverse tribal land. ADOT also provides programmatic assistance to 14 tribal airports and 7 tribal public transit systems. With the adoption of the ADOT Native Nation-Tribal Government Consultation Policy and designation of Tribal Liaisons, the Department is formally committed to work with the 22 tribal governments in Arizona for the common purpose of providing an efficient transportation system and to protect the safety and welfare of the traveling public. ADOT also works with the tribes to implement their transportation missions and goals.

Tribal Government Consultation Policy

ADOT’s Tribal Consultation Policy was reviewed and submitted for renewal during the 2nd quarter of 2019. The policy renewal process is required every two years. The policy is posted on the Arizona Tribal Transportation website <http://aztribaltransportation.org/PDF/ADOT-MGT-16-01-Tribal-Consultation.pdf>.

Tribal Liaisons

ADOT continues to employ two Tribal Liaisons within the Multimodal Planning Division. Both Liaisons conduct regional responsibilities to address tribal transportation policy and statewide issues as well as carry out consultation, coordination and cooperation activities for transportation planning projects.

ADOT Tribal Consultation Policy – Major Collaborative Activities

The following actions address ADOT Policy guidelines and were conducted with assistance from ADOT Tribal Liaisons in coordination and participation from various ADOT Divisions, Sections and Groups.

Consultation Policy Goal	Goal Objective	Goal Activity/Performance Measure
Develop, build and maintain appropriate tribal working relationships. (Policies #1 and #4)	Enter into a contract with the Inter Tribal Council of Arizona (ITCA) to provide tribal transportation technical assistance and to host Tribal Transportation Working Group (TWG) meetings that will improve information sharing and state-tribal activity coordination.	ADOT contracted with ITCA on September 18, 2018. TWG Meetings were held on February 12, 2019 and March 25, 2019. Major topics of discussion: Tribal Transportation Program Coordinating Committee Updates, ADOT Planning to Programming process, Federal USC 202(a)(9) Tribal Intergovernmental Funds Transfer Agreements, ADOT Enforcement Compliance Division tribal activities, tribal traffic safety improvement opportunities through state programs including the Highway Safety Improvement Program.
Consider all tribal transportation concerns. (Policy #1)	Increase the attendance and participation through comments provided by tribes and tribal related agency representatives at State Transportation Board (STB) meetings.	ADOT experienced 20.1% participation in tribal related public comments recorded at STB meetings in FY19 compared 20.6% in FY18. However, 42 individuals representing tribes and tribal related agencies commented at 11 STB meetings in FY19, compared to 24 tribal individuals attending 10 STB meetings in FY18.

<p>Provide timely opportunities for communication with tribes about decisions that may affect them. (Policy #11)</p>	<p>Utilize ADOT Tribal Liaisons as point of contact for tribal related inquiries, assistance requests and outreach to tribal governments for ADOT transportation study projects. Communicate with the ADOT District Engineers for inquiries related specifically to their district regions.</p>	<p>Start-up communication was coordinated with tribal officials/personnel and the ADOT District Engineers to address the following: Sonoran Corridor Tier 1 Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), Tohono O’odham Nation San Xavier District community outreach; Interstate 11 Corridor Tier 1 EIS, Tohono O’odham Nation and Pascua Yaqui Tribe project consultation outreach; Interstate 10 Wild Horse Pass Corridor Design Concept Report and Tier 1 EIS, Gila River Indian Community project consultation and community outreach.</p>
<p>Improve tribal consultation for the implementation of the Arizona Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). (Policy #5)</p> <p>Encourage mutual understanding of unique cultural and organizational practices among ADOT and the Tribes. (Policies #8 and #10)</p>	<p>To consult with Tribes on all major projects. Increase participation with Councils of Government (COGs) and Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) for funding and technical assistance on projects that may be included in the Arizona STIP.</p> <p>Encourage ADOT, COG, MPO and stakeholder agency personnel to take training that will enhance their understanding and working relationships with the tribes.</p>	<p>Coordinated with the Annual Arizona Rural Transportation Summit to conduct the first Annual Tribal Leadership Meeting and follow-up breakout session on October 24, 2018. Twenty-seven (27) persons attended including twelve (12) tribal leaders/representatives. This initial outreach effort was to improve relationships between the tribes and MPO/COGs in order to assist in the process of planning and funding transportation improvement projects.</p> <p>The ADOT Tribal Transportation Consultation Online Training Course continues to be offered on the Arizona Tribal Transportation Website.</p>
<p>Maintain and operate State infrastructure within tribal lands. (Policy #3)</p>	<p>Increase communication and address Tribal concerns related to facility maintenance needs.</p>	<p>ADOT expenditure to maintain state routes and transportation facilities within tribal lands was at approximately \$11 million for FY19.</p>
<p>Neither solicit or nor assert claim to federal resources available to tribes. (Policy #2)</p> <p>Enter into appropriate State-Tribal Intergovernmental Agreements. (Policy #6)</p>	<p>Remove barriers that tribes may have in accessing funding for transportation projects. Utilize the federal Title 23 USC Section 202(a)(9) Intergovernmental Fund Transfer Agreements (IFTA). Inform tribes of Federal Transit funds availability through ADOT.</p>	<p>Tribal IFTAs include the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community at \$3.6 million for road paving; Gila River Indian Community at \$1.9 million for road reconstruction; Colorado River Indian Tribes at \$1.7 million for road shoulder rumble strips. ADOT also awarded Federal Transit Administration grants to tribal transit programs totaling \$3.1 million in FY19.</p>
<p>Identify available resources to jointly or individually fund projects that benefit the State and Tribes. (Policy #7)</p>	<p>Engage in a spirit of cooperation and coordination, partner stakeholders agree to fund joint project. Pursue funding through state and federal programs.</p>	<p>A bridge bundling project application was submitted by ADOT for \$14.2 million in December 2019 under the federal Competitive Highway Bridge Program to replace/repair four US 191 bridges within the Navajo Nation.</p>

Engage in partnering efforts with the tribal governments. (Policy #9)	To maintain ongoing tribal transportation partnerships that support productive relationships with the tribes and regional stakeholders, and that pursue effective action plan activities through meetings held on a regular basis. Post partnership information on the Arizona Tribal Transportation Website.	The Navajo Nation Partnership was re-established with the first meeting held on January 25, 2019; the SCAT/WMAT Partnership is ongoing with an Annual Meeting held August 8, 2019 and Steering Committee Meetings held on August 14 and April 24, 2019; the Hopi Tribe Partnership was re-established with two Working Group meetings held December 12, 2018 and March 20, 2019.
Share appropriate technical information and data with the Tribes. (Policy #12)	Assist tribes to access the most reliable, accurate and timely crash data to support and prioritize request for projects. Encourage tribal police departments to begin utilizing the ADOT Traffic Records and Criminal Software (TraCS) program to enter data into the State database.	Participated in the White Mountain Apache, Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation and Yavapai – Prescott Tribe workshops and demonstrations on the ADOT TraCS crash data software. All tribal chiefs of police expressed interest in the program. On May 22, 2019 the Yavapai-Prescott Tribe became the first tribe in Arizona to begin using the TraCS Program. A Yavapai-Prescott TraCS Kick-Off Meeting was held on June 7, 2019.
Assist tribes to implement transportation programs. (Policies #8 and #13)	Provide learning opportunities for tribal personnel in specific areas of transportation project development.	The ADOT Integrating State and Tribal Transportation Planning Pathways Online Workshop continues to be offered on the Arizona Tribal Transportation Website.

Liaison Challenge: Time limitations are a challenge for the Liaisons in order to keep up with the numerous tribal related requests for assistance and coordination received both internal and external to the department. The ADOT Multimodal Planning Division has increased use of the ADOT internship program to hire full-time and part-time planning and/or engineering college students to support the Liaisons with tribal coordination and consultation tasks and activities. This has been a beneficial process to both ADOT and the students.

Liaison Highlight: Liaisons provided extensive assistance to coordinate efforts in pursuit of safety improvement funding for US 191 from Chinle to Many Farms on the Navajo Nation. On April 4th a US 191 field visit was conducted with Director Halikowski and other lead state and tribal officials. Project meetings were held with Navajo Chapters, Navajo DOT and ADOT officials. Chapter meetings were attended to conduct tribal outreach and obtain community support. As a result ADOT submitted a \$12.5 million project application under the “Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development” program. Notification of application awards will be released by November 12, 2019. The project is in response to comments expressed at State Transportation Board meetings during FY19. When constructed improvements are projected to improve safety and reduce vehicular crashes.

For questions or more information contact:

Ermalinda Gene, Tribal Planning Program Manager/Tribal Liaison, (602) 712-6736, Egene@azdot.gov

Don Sneed, Tribal Planning Program Manager/Tribal Liaison, (602) 712-4095, Dsneed@azdot.gov