

Hopi & Arizona Department of Transportation Partnership Steering Committee Workshop Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, December 12, 2018
 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM
 Flagstaff Modular Training Room
 Flagstaff AZ 86001

Facilitators: Nichole Jenks & Michael Carter



Today was the first meeting of the Hopi and Arizona Department of Transportation Partnership Steering Committee. The 15 attendees were selected based on their areas of expertise and authority with other partnering agencies. The meeting opened with a prayer from Hopi Tribal Council Member, Davis Pecusa.

Steering Committee – Getting to know the partners:

The introduction session allowed each member to provide their name, title and organization they represent. Each member was asked to provide greater detail as to their specific duties or responsibilities within the organization and provide their areas of expertise and level of authority. The following table provides a breakdown of this information including contact information and emails embedded as direct links.

Name & Title	Organization	Authority & Expertise	Contact Information
Davis Pecusa, Tribal Council Representative Bacavi	Hopi Tribe	Mr. Pecusa brings decades of experience to the partnership. He has worked with numerous tribes, including Hopi and the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) since the 1970's. He has extensive experience in transportation funding, budgets, tribal policy and procedures. He currently is the Chairman of the Hopi Transportation Committee and reviews law and policies in the transportation program. He is a current Tribal Council Member.	Dpecusa@hopi.nsn.us
Mike Lomayaktewa, Director	Hopi Department of Transportation (HDOT)	Mr. Lomayaktewa has worked for HDOT for 5.5 years. He started as the Indian Reservation Roads Manager and was soon promoted to HDOT Director. He has implemented the new Tribal Transportation Program for HDOT. As HDOT Director, he is responsible for presenting transportation initiatives to Hopi Tribal Council for consent.	mlomayaktewa@hopi.nsn.us Cell: 928.313.2711

Jollette Arrieta, Office Manager	HDOT	Ms. Arrieta is responsible for all documentation presented to HDOT and oversees the HDOT budget for the transportation program. She is the first point of contact for most HDOT business.	Jarrieta@hopi.nsn.us Office: 928.734.3183
Matt Moul, Professional Engineer (P.E.) Northeast District Engineer	Arizona Department Of Transportation (ADOT)	Mr. Moul oversees operations, maintenance and construction of state highways in the Northeast District. His district office is located in Holbrook Arizona.	Mmoul@azdot.gov
Ermalinda Gene, Tribal Planning Program Manager	ADOT	Ms. Gene is part of the Multi-Modal Planning Division (MPD) and works as a Tribal Planner Liaison encouraging coordination and participation with tribes. She also works in developing policy with MPD.	EGene@azdot.gov
Michael Carter, Partnering Administrator	ADOT	Mr. Carter provides support to the partnering facilitators and to all agencies within this partnership.	MCarter@azdot.gov Office: 602.712.8069 Cell: 602.320.1472
Arlando Teller, Deputy Director	Navajo Department of Transportation (NDOT)	Mr. Teller has worked for NDOT for 9 years, starting as a Sr. Transportation Planner. Currently as the Deputy Director, he supervises 170 staff members and provides support to 5 NDOT Divisions; Highway Safety, Airport, Transportation Planning, Project Management and Road Maintenance. He oversees the Navajo Nation policy and regulations in Transportation. He is a former State Transportation Board (STB) member and Arizona Airport Association member.	ateller@navajodot.org <u>Cell: 928.245.7490</u>
LeAnne Roy, Geographic Information Systems (GIS) Supervisor	NDOT	Ms. Roy has been with NDOT for 13 years. She is the GIS Supervisor for Transportation Planning and works closely with Federal Highways Administration and BIA. She is working towards implementing data sharing software for NDOT. She oversees the road inventory and maintenance agreements for NDOT.	lroy@navajodot.org
Jason James, Transportation Planner	Northern Arizona Council of Government (NACOG)	Mr. James is the Transportation Planner, Water Planner and a valued source of information for funding opportunities. He oversees the Transportation Improvement Program for NACOG.	jjames@nacog.org Cell: 928.925.8413

Romare Truely, Tribal Liaison	Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)	Mr. Truely is the Community Planner and Tribal Coordinator for Arizona Tribes. He works for the Tribal Transportation Office within FHWA. He works closely with Council of Governments (COG's) and Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPO's) to provide federal funding information. He is the lead for tribal programs with FHWA.	Romare.Truely@dot.gov Office: 602.382.8978
Ammon Heier, P.E., Transportation Engineer	FHWA	Mr. Heier is the Northern Arizona area Transportation Engineer for FHWA. He oversees payments, material and construction programs including the Emergency Relief Program which provides funding opportunities to state and local governments for transportation expenses due to storm events or natural disasters. He is the ADOT lead.	Ammon.Heier@dot.gov Cell: 801.885.0833
Bill Bess, P.E., County Engineer	Navajo County	Mr. Bess is a Civil Engineer and has worked for Navajo County for 9 years. He has years of experience in rural road construction and maintenance. Mr. Bess has established strong relationships with other partnership agencies. Navajo County can provide drone mapping services.	bill.bess@navajocountyaz.gov Cell: 928.205.3503
Miles Begay, Engineer in Training (EIT), Tribal Transportation Manager	Navajo County	Mr. Begay is the main contact per Mr. Bess. He has worked for Navajo County for 1.5 years and has administered numerous projects on tribal lands. He is familiar with Highway User Revenue Funds (HURF) and authorized expenditure of such funds. He travels monthly with Navajo County Supervisor, Jesse Thompson to the STB meetings to review the 5 year State Transportation Improvement Plan (STIP).	miles.begay@navajocountyaz.gov Cell: 928.637.5949
Wendell Honanie, Supervisor of the Keams Canyon Office	Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), Hopi Agency	Mr. Honanie oversees the Tribal Priority Allocation (TPA) program and encourages government to government participation. BIA ensures compliance for tribal contracts and funding mechanisms and is the final review and approval for right-of-way (ROW) and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) compliance.	Wendell.Honanie@bia.gov Office: 928.738.2228
Esther Corbett, Transportation Program Manager	Intertribal Council of Arizona (ITCA):	Ms. Corbett works with 21 Arizona tribes in the Tribal Epidemiology Center (TEC) for Public Health. She responds to request for technical assistance in policy, regulation and improvement of crash data collection. The TEC brochure is available at: http://itcaonline.com/wp-content/uploads/2011/03/TEC-Brochure.pdf	esther.corbett@itcaonline.com Office: 602.258.4822 www.itcaonline.com

Steering Committee – Working together:

Team members worked together to establish written values which define how the team will work together and written goals which define the teams objectives and educational opportunities.

Steering Committee Values:

- Be respectful
- Listen 1st
- Be understanding
- Transparency- Sharing information
- Commitment to have representation from your agency
- Follow through with the task or assign an alternate member
- Liability – reliability
- Support – Ask or offer help
- Sense of humor
- Innovation:
 - Be resourceful in your solutions
 - Seek out funding opportunities
 - Develop council/procurement/outside relationships
 - Informed leadership
- Empathy
- Do what’s right – community, partners and project
- Communication – Open and include everyone
- Dependable – Do what you say you’ll do
- Fairness
- Community based transportation approach
- Cultural sensitivity
 - Strategically think about challenges and coming up with solutions
 - Consider new technology
 - Utilize data
 - Know the process and streamline when possible

Steering Committee Goals:

- Accelerate processes and clearances (ROW, NEPA)
- Learn more about funding opportunities
- Continue meaningful partnerships
- Cross training opportunities
- Projects: SR 264 and H 60
- Expand tribal partnerships
 - Get DPS/Law Enforcement involved in partnership
 - Focus on TRACS adoption
 - “One stop shop” for BIA approvals

Steering Committee Mission Statement:

The Hopi Department of Transportation, along with our other partnership members, are committed to uphold our team values while working towards our transportation goals to improve our infrastructure and increase safety for our communities and the traveling public.

Hopi Transportation Objectives:

1. Identify a maintenance facility location:

HDOT is currently in need of a maintenance facility to house both personnel and equipment. At this time, administrative staff is located in the Kykotsmovi office and road maintenance staff is located in Keams Canyon.

HDOT would like to find a location within District 6 due to favorable infrastructure and available utilities. HDOT is looking for clan/village leader, documented approval.

HDOT would like to approach the Tawaovi Master Plan Committee to discuss a lease on this site location. This property is held in Hopi Trust Lands, and has power and a well approximately 1 mile away. Funding mechanisms include federal funds, which require BIA approval and recording. Per HDOT, the lease and structure(s) would be federally funded and any utility relocation cost would be funded by Hopi tribal funds. FHWA may have Tribal Transportation Program (TTP) funds available. Under 25 CFR 170.227, tribes may use flexible financing for certain TTP projects.

Action Items:

- **HDOT, Michael Lomayaktewa (or assigned delegate)** will reach out to the Tawaovi Master Plan Committee and discuss the possibility of leasing space on this Hopi Trust Land. Will inform the Steering Committee of the outcome of this discussion when completed or at the next meeting, whichever occurs first.
- **HDOT, Michael Lomayaktewa (or assigned delegate)** will reach out to the Hopi Community Planner to gather information on lease and utility relocation cost for the above mentioned property. Will inform the Steering Committee of the outcome of this discussion when completed or at the next meeting, whichever occurs first.
- **ADOT, Matt Moul:** Is there any potential for a temporary facility at an existing ADOT property until a permanent location is secured? Who would Hopi need to contact to find out more information if this were an option? Please advise at your earliest opportunity.

2. Long Range Transportation Plan Priorities:

I. State Route 264:

State Route (SR) 264 traverses most of the villages on the Hopi Reservation covering approximately 50 miles. The road terrain is hilly, with many curves.

A Road Safety Audit (RSA) revealed numerous fatalities and overall lack of law enforcement on this stretch of road. There are no shoulders. The pavement is in poor condition with significant surface deterioration. This road becomes very heavily traveled with tourist and commercial vehicles when SR 89 or Interstate 40 is shut down. In pull outs along the road, school buses are getting stuck and there have been reports of pedestrian and vehicle near misses along the bus stops. HDOT is interested in pavement preservation or reconstruction funding opportunities.

Action Items:

- **ADOT, Eralinda Gene:** To provide the steering committee with the web site link to the Planning 2 Programming (P2P) report and process to apply. P2P projects are recommendations from DE's and COG's. Eralinda will also provide contact information for the ADOT Intertribal Liaison, Rosalinda Federico.

- **ADOT, Matt Moul: Partnering facilitator, Nichole Jenks, will contact Mr. Moul to see if** ADOT can provide any record of the last time this stretch of road was maintained and what maintenance was completed.
- **ADOT, Matt Moul: Nichole will reach out to Matt to determine if the** bus pull outs are maintained by ADOT and if they are outside of the ADOT right-of-way (ROW) or on ADOT ROW?

II. **SR 87:**

SR 87 runs north from I-40, through the Navajo Indian Reservation and approximately the last 18 miles in located on the Hopi Reservation. This stretch of road is at a lower elevation, has a straighter alignment and the pavement is in better condition than SR 264. Where SR 87 intersects SR 264, there is a “T” intersection which is on a curve that is controlled by a STOP sign with a flashing red light beacon. Traffic does not stop on SR 264. There have been numerous vehicles run off the end of the road at this location. HDOT would like to improve the communications between HDOT and ADOT Keams Canyon Maintenance facility. HDOT is concerned with commercial truck traffic, specifically over-size/over-weight (OS/OW) vehicles trying to avoid enforcement regulations.

Action Items:

- **ADOT, Matt Moul:** Please assist in entering a service request to repair/replace the flashing red light beacon on the STOP sign as it is no longer working OR provide the contact information for who would handle traffic control sign repairs so HDOT has this information.
- **ADOT, Matt Moul:** Please assist in establishing the best method of communication for HDOT and ADOT staff at the Keams Canyon Maintenance facility. Perhaps a contact list if available.
- **ADOT, Ermalinda Gene:** Will reach out to the Motor Vehicle Division (MVD) and inquire as to the availability of mobile weigh stations that can be utilized on state routes to monitor commercial truck traffic and reduce/eliminate OS/OW trucks that use these roads without proper permitting.

III. **Hopi Airport:**

Fred Shupla is in charge of the Hopi Airport and has been working on project improvements in order to turn the airport over to HDOT. Currently the air strip is not on the road inventory. LeAnne Roy did comment on what is allowable on road inventories as it pertains to funding mechanisms and opportunities. There are no actionable items at this time but we will revisit at the next committee meeting.

3. **Data Sharing :**

HDOT is currently working on gathering crash data from Hopi law enforcement, BIA enforcement and emergency services. Hopi law enforcement will take over all BIA enforcement services in 2019. HDOT’s goal for 2019 is to recruit a staff member to gather data and establish a safety program. HDOT may possibly move to the TRACS data software and could use ITCA assistance. Crash data is necessary when applying for some funding sources, specifically Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) funds.

Action Items:

- **HDOT, Michael Lomayaktewa:** will forward the HDOT Strategic Highway Safety Program to the steering committee members at his earliest convenience.
- **ADOT, Tim Jordan/Rosalinda:** Would TSMO be willing to make a presentation at the next steering committee meeting regarding the TRACS software?
- **ITCA, Esther Corbett: Agreed to** provide information on funding opportunities for software, servers and any other technology that may be necessary to implement the TRACS program.

Presentation by Jason James, NACOG:

Jason James, Transportation Planner with NACOG, presented information on current federal funding opportunities including types of funds available, what the funds can be used for and several dates for application submissions for 2019. Handouts were provided which gave greater details of the programs. The following is a recap of programs discussed:

- Nationally Significant Federal Lands and Tribal Projects Program (NSFLTP): provides funding for the construction, reconstruction, and rehabilitation of nationally-significant projects within, adjacent to, or accessing Federal and tribal lands. This Program provides an opportunity to address significant challenges across the nation for transportation facilities that serve Federal and tribal lands. The NSFLTP Program provides discretionary funding for projects that have an estimated construction cost of at least \$25 million. Construction projects with an estimated cost equal to and exceeding \$50 million receive priority consideration in the selection process. Section 1123 of the FAST Act requires that projects have at least 10% of costs matched by funds not provided under any USDOT programs authorized under titles 23 or 49 of the U.S. Code, unless authorized under any other provision of law. FHWA shall consider criteria established under section 1123 of the FAST Act in rating all applications for funding under the Program in addition to the Secretary's objectives. More information can be found at: <https://flh.fhwa.dot.gov/programs/nsfltp/>. Deadline is December 17.
- Governor's Office of Highway Safety Grant: Funding specific to Highway Safety. Tentative call for projects in January 2019, with deadline for applications in March 2019. FY19 Grant Proposal Guide & FY19 Grant Proposal Training Presentation handouts were provided.
- Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP): Funding for safety projects based on fatal crashes (within last 5 years) and appropriate safety countermeasures. Next call for HSIP projects will be in January 2019. Current Arizona HSIP Manual and FHWA Nine Proven Crash Countermeasures handouts were provided.
- Roadway Safety Audit (RSA): The Road Safety Assessments (RSA) program conducts Road Safety Assessments on state, local and tribal road facilities. An RSA is defined as a formal examination of user safety of a future or existing roadway by an independent multidisciplinary audit team, which includes qualified and experienced members. Priority is based on number of fatal crashes on specific roadway (within last 5 years). Bahram Dariush is the RSA Program Administration (BDariush@azdot.gov, (602) 712-2332).
- Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (TIFIA): The Transportation Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (TIFIA) program provides credit assistance for

qualified projects of regional and national significance. Many large-scale, surface transportation projects (\$50 million and higher) - highway, transit, railroad, intermodal freight, and port access are eligible for assistance. Eligible applicants include state and local governments, transit agencies, railroad companies, special authorities, special districts, and private entities. TIFIA handouts were provided. More information can be found at <https://www.transportation.gov/buildamerica/programs-services/tifia>.

- Water Infrastructure Finance Authority: Loan program specific to wastewater treatment plants, lift stations, sewer improvements, and stormwater management. WIFA slide handouts were provided. More information can be found at <https://www.azwifa.gov/loan-programs/>.
- USDA Rural Development Summary of Major Programs: A Summary of Major Funding Programs for USDA Rural Development was provided. This handout summary includes: Rural Housing and Community Facilities Programs, Rural Business and Cooperative Programs, Rural Utilities Programs, and Northern Arizona USDA Contacts.
- ADOT Off-System Bridge Program: the Purpose of the Off-System Bridge Program is to fund the Design and/or Construction for replacement or rehabilitation of roadway bridges over waterways, other topographical barriers, other roadways, railroads, canals, ferry landings, etc. on bridges that are not on the Federal-aid highway system (local roads or rural minor collectors) when those bridges have been determined deficient because of structural deficiencies, physical deterioration, or functional obsolescence. Call for projects is tentatively scheduled for end of December 2018, with deadline at end of January 2019. ADOT Off-System Bridge Program Guidelines were provided.

Roundtable Discussion and Closing Comments:

- For more information: AZTribalTransportation.org
Nichole Jenks will work with ADOT to update information on the web site.
- **Next Meeting Agenda Item**: Identify Partnering Champions for the committee agencies and discuss the importance and role of the champion.
- **Next Meeting Agenda Item**: Discuss the excise tax, fuel tax and Tribal License Plate tax as funding sources and tax revenue.
- **Next Meeting Date**: March 20, 2019 from 9:00 to 3:00. Location on Hopi Reservation TBD.