

# San Carlos Apache Tribe / White Mountain Apache Tribe Transportation Partnership Steering Committee Notes

THURSDAY, February 15, 2018

10 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.; Apache Gold Casino and Conference Center

## MEETING PURPOSE:

- Plan the next Annual Meeting and General Discussion



## ATTENDEES

Bill Harmon, ADOT Southeast District Engineer  
Bernadette Kniffin, Nnee Bich'o Nii Transit Services Director  
Bonnie Opie, ADOT Program Administrator Partnering, EIT/Intern and Transportation AMS Offices  
Cassie Kenton-Garcia, WMAT Transit Manager  
David Francis, Nnee Bich'o Nii Transit Services Fleet Supervisor  
David Thompson, SCAT DOT Construction Representative  
Irene Herder, BIA San Carlos Agency Superintendent  
Jerimiah Moerke, ADOT Senior Community Relations Manager  
Lisa Kane, SCAT DOT Intern  
Lynn Johnson, ADOT Northeast District Engineer  
Marvin Mull Jr., SCAT DOT Director  
Mark Tessay, WMAT Fire Department  
Michael Carter, ADOT Partnering Office Administrator  
Orlando Tessay, WMAT Fire Department Chief  
Rick Powers, Jacobs Engineering Consultant  
Romare Truely, FHWA Community Planner  
Steve Aday, BIA San Carlos Agency Roads Supervisor  
Rosalinda Federico, ADOT Tribal Planning Program Manager  
Tara Chief, WMAT DOT Director  
Travis Ashbaugh, CAG Planning  
Woody Cline, Gila County District 3 Supervisor

## **FACILITATOR**

Linda Ritter

### **Welcome**

ADOT Partnering Facilitator, Linda Ritter, opened the meeting and SCAT DOT Director, Marvin Mull Jr., provided a welcoming address, expressing his appreciation to the committee for taking time out of their schedules to attend the meeting and collaborate on transportation issues. Linda asked committee members to introduce themselves, stating their roles in their various tribes, agencies and organizations and sharing any hobbies they have and/or skills they wish to learn.

After introductions, Linda went over the day's agenda of planning the next Annual Meeting.

### **Discussion Points**

The previous Steering Committee meeting included team exercises and group discussion to help determine the overall objectives of holding an Annual Meeting and developing an effective format for the meeting. Linda summarized the information from the last meeting and presented it in a PowerPoint for team discussion at this meeting. The team also reviewed the draft agenda, which was developed at the last Steering Committee meeting, and worked to finalize the format and content of the upcoming Annual Meeting:

- **What do we want to achieve by hosting an annual meeting?**
  - Define what we do.
  - Communicate achievements.
  - Celebrate our accomplishments.
  - Discuss challenges we face/limited resources.
  - Discuss what is happening now.
  - Identify resources to accomplish goals.
  - Ask "What do you want to see us accomplish in the future?"
  - Develop Action Plan.
  
- **What do we think are the expectations of those who will attend the Annual Meeting?**
  - Will want to explain why they came to the meeting.
  - Find out what the committee has accomplished.
  - Understand challenges faced, such as funding issues and budgets.
  - Give feedback regarding what the committee presents.
  - Discuss future goals and best ways to use limited resources.

➤ **Proposed Annual Meeting format**

• **MORNING**

- ❖ 9:00 to 9:20 a.m.: Opening Prayer, Welcome, Introductions
- ❖ 9:20 to 9:30 a.m.: Marvin Mull Jr. and Tara Chief will unveil the new Partnership logo through a PowerPoint slide displaying the logo and the Partnership Charter. The Charter and new logo will be produced on paper by ADOT Creative Services and will be signed by all meeting attendees.
- ❖ 9:30 to 10:00 a.m.: Major Success Stories/Achievements
- ❖ 10:00 to 10:20 a.m.: How Funding Works/Major Challenges
- ❖ BREAK
- ❖ 10:30 to 11:15 a.m.: Informational Breakout Stations
- ❖ 11:15 a.m. to Noon: Q & A and Feedback
- ❖ LUNCH

• **AFTERNOON**

- ❖ 1 to 2:30 p.m.: Major Action Items Identified/Discussed

➤ **Q & A and Time Constraints**

The facilitator will emphasize that due to time constraints, questions will be held until attendees have an opportunity to visit the breakout stations and learn more/ask questions at that time and then return to the meeting room to ask further questions and provide feedback.

➤ **Major Success Stories/Achievements - Three Minutes or Under for Each Presenter**

- A panel consisting of seven agencies will present major successes achieved through the partnership.
  - ❖ White Mountain Apache DOT and Transit (Tara Chief)  
White Mountain Apache DOT joined the Partnership/Transit is up and running /911 Address Program
  - ❖ San Carlos Apache DOT (Marvin Mull, Jr.)  
\$42 million in projects accomplished/Route 6 example.
  - ❖ San Carlos Nnee Bich'o Nii Services (Bernadette Kniffin)  
Transit highlights
  - ❖ NE ADOT District (Lynn Johnson)  
Direct work with White Mountain DOT- Showcase example
  - ❖ SE ADOT District (Bill Harmon)  
Bylas Project/Having a common vision
  - ❖ Pinal County (Kathy Borquez)  
Partnering project example
  - ❖ CAG (Travis Ashbaugh)  
With lack of funds/importance of working together – US 70 project an example.  
Also, Greater Gila County Transit Feasibility and Implementation Study

➤ **How Funding Works - Major Challenges: Three Minutes or Under for Each Presenter**

- A panel consisting of seven agencies will present how funding works. Bill Harmon will finalize the educational funding presentation by emphasizing why funding is the major challenge facing the Partnership.
  - ❖ Federal Highway Administration (Karla Petty or Romare Truely)
  - ❖ ADOT NE District (Lynn Johnson)
  - ❖ SCAT DOT (Marvin Mull Jr.)
  - ❖ WMAT DOT (Tara Chief)
  - ❖ SCAT DOT Transit (Bernadette Kniffin)
  - ❖ CAG Transportation Planning (Travis Ashbaugh)
  - ❖ ADOT SE District (Bill Harmon)
- FHWA will open the discussion by presenting a funding allocation diagram(s) and discuss key points of how funding works.
- Lynn Johnson will add additional comments regarding how funding works as it relates to the diagram and discuss how the NE ADOT District manages funding.
- All other panel members, except Bill Harmon, will also discuss (for two to three minutes each) how funding works within their agencies.
- Bill Harmon will finalize the discussion to emphasize the difficulty of funding – many needs, limited resources and the difficulty of securing funding for critical needs.

➤ **Informational Breakout Stations - 45 Minutes**

- Linda will contact all agencies involved in the partnership (all are listed on the new logo), other than the ones confirmed below, to determine if they would like to staff an informational station for their agency. If they wish to staff a station, they will especially need to be prepared to emphasize and discuss how they benefit by and/or provide value to the partnership.
- Some agencies may want to staff their station with another agency.
- Confirmed Stations
  - ❖ White Mountain Apache DOT and Transit
  - ❖ San Carlos Apache DOT
  - ❖ San Carlos Nnee Bich'o Nii Services
  - ❖ Northeast ADOT District
  - ❖ Southeast ADOT District
  - ❖ CAG
  - ❖ Pinal County
  - ❖ Gila County

➤ **Q & A and Feedback - 45 Minutes**

This is an opportunity for questions and feedback from leaders as to “What do you want us to do next?”

➤ **Action Plan**

After lunch, it is expected that some attendees will not be able to stay, and for those who may leave early, their feedback received prior to lunch will help the remaining group to move forward to develop an action plan.

➤ **Annual Meeting Location and Date**

- The meeting will be held at Hon-Dah Resort and Conference Center.
- Linda will get with various ADOT leaders to determine a few dates in July in which they all will be available to attend an Annual Meeting.
- Once those dates are identified, she will get with Romare Truely, Marvin Mull, Tara Chief, Bernadette Kniffin, Travis Ashbaugh and Kathy Borquez to learn if they are available on any of those dates.
- Tara Chief and Cassie Kenton-Garcia will find out if Hon-Dah Conference Rooms are available on the dates in question (two conference rooms/microphones etc. are needed).
- Once a date works for all presenters with conference rooms secured at Hon-Dah, Linda will email the committee to finalize the Annual Meeting date.
- Bonnie Opie noted that there were approximately 80 attendees at the last Annual Meeting.

**General Discussion**

- Romare Truely will send a link to a report regarding safety strategies for tribal governments and stakeholders who assist tribes with improving transportation-related safety on tribal lands.
- Bill Harmon and Romare Truely discussed federal funding. Federal funding is fairly static. There is a reliance on local dollars to fund needed improvements.
- It was noted that Tribal Council needs a good understanding of roadway costs - National Highway funds fall far short of needs.
- Funding difficulties were further discussed among the group. It was noted that while there are few dollars for so many needed improvements, it is not only roadways that need funding, but sidewalk, curb and gutter projects are also essential to safety.
- Lynn Johnson noted that the SR 73 preservation project has been completed and two pedestrian crossing projects on the White Mountain Apache Tribal lands are finished and turned out well.
- Emergency Services Challenges and Archeological Site Protection
  - Mark Tessay noted that Google Maps is not synchronized with the WMAT 9-1-1 address system in place. This is a safety concern for emergency services.
  - There are two different numbering systems on roadways – the Forest Service and the BIA have their own road numbering systems in place. This presents a challenge when emergency services are called out to accidents on rural roadways. New staff members especially have difficulty locating accident sites. This issue is slowly being resolved in some ways.

- Additionally, there is sensitivity among the tribe to share addresses, which has created further challenges for emergency services to quickly and easily locate residences.
- Marvin Mull notes that the SCAT Planning Department has been working on these kinds of issues.
- There are special archeological sites that need protection/privacy, but with more and more people having access to GPS, these sites are being located by the general public and damaged.

**The February 15 Steering Committee meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m.**

**ACTION ITEMS PRIOR TO ANNUAL MEETING!!!**

- **Linda Ritter** will work to set an Annual Meeting date as soon as possible and then send an Outlook invitation to everyone on the Annual Meeting roster.
- **Steering Committee members** will send Linda photos/visuals with a title and date for a rotating PowerPoint display as attendees enter the Annual Meeting Conference Room.
- **The Steering Committee** will continue to provide Linda with any new contact information for the Annual Meeting roster, so that all appropriate individuals are invited to the meeting.
- As the Annual Meeting gets closer, **Linda** will work with those on the “Achievements” panel and the “How Funding Works” panel; setting conference calls with panel members to finalize plans.
- **Romare Truely** will provide a diagram(s) for the “How Funding Works” panel discussion.
- **Linda** will call all agencies of the Partnership who are not yet confirmed to ask if they would like to staff informational stations.
- **Steering Committee members** will think about the kinds of information/photos etc. they wish to provide at their informational station, how they would like the station to look, and be prepared to set up their station and have it ready before 8:30 a.m. on the day of the Annual Meeting.
- **Linda** will get with ADOT’s Creative Services Department to have the new logo with the Partnership Charter placed on a large paper for attendee signatures.

**Summary of Participant Meeting Evaluation**

Scores are based on 11 evaluations. Comments are taken from the evaluation forms exactly as written.

1. How valuable was this meeting for you? 4.63 out of 5
2. Could you or other team members have done anything more during the meeting to encourage a successful outcome? 0 Yes 11 No
3. How well did the facilitator guide and encourage team members to understand and discuss key meeting items? 4.27 out of 5
4. How do you rate the effectiveness of the team? 4.55 out of 5
5. Do you have any suggestions for improving future meetings? 3 Yes 8 No
6. How satisfied were you with the facility? 4.45 out of 5
7. How satisfied were you with the refreshments? 4.73 out of 5

**Comments**

- Suggestion: Invite tribal media?

- Did a great job. Keep the “What’s on Your Mind” at a minimum.
- Overall, Linda did a great job, but would be great to stay on task during “What’s on Your Mind” section.
- The meetings have improved significantly over the past several years. There is a lot more focus on ensuring action items are addressed.
- Good meeting!