

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

WEDNESDAY, January 25, 2017

10 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.

Apache Gold Casino Conference Center
San Carlos, Arizona

MEETING PURPOSE:

- Provide a forum for open discussion
- Provide a 9-1-1 Emergency Response Presentation to Address a Committee Goal
- Review the Issue Escalation Ladder
- Review the Proposed New Logo
- Update Partnership Goals
- Discuss Next Meetings
- Provide Partnership Activity Updates



ATTENDEES

Bernadette Kniffin, SCAT Transit
Bill Bess, Navajo County Engineer
Bill Harmon, ADOT
Bonnie Opie, ADOT
Cassie Kenton-Garcia, WMAT Transit Manager
Charlene Mullis, ADOT
Cline Woody, Gila County Supervisor

ATTENDEES CONTINUED

David Francis, SCAT Transit
Debra Williams, Gila County 9-11 Coordinator
Don Sneed, ADOT
Georgia Puente Meza, BIA – Fort Apache
Hanson Mull, SCAT Airport
Hugh Moses, SCAT DOT
James Meyer, ADOT, 9-1-1 Presenter
Kathy Borquez, Pinal County Public Works
Marvin Mull, SCAT DOT
Mary Tapija, SCAT DOT
Morey Cole, WMAT Police Captain
Orlando Tessay, WMAT Fire Dept.
Paul David, Graham County Supervisor
Roger David, Guest/ Freelance Reporter
Sandra Dyre, ADOA, 9-1-1 Presenter
Steve Aday, BIA – San Carlos Agency
Travis Ashbaugh, Central Arizona Governments (CAG)
Victor Shileen, SCAT DOT
Waylon Dude, SCAT Planning

FACILITATOR

Linda Ritter
Julia Voight (Backup Facilitator)

WELCOME

ADOT Partnering Facilitator, Linda Ritter, welcomed everyone and introduced ADOT Partnering Office Administrator, Bonnie Opie, and Partnering Facilitator, Julia Voight. Linda thanked SCAT DOT and SCAT Nnee Bich’o Nii Transit for providing lunch and refreshments for the meeting. Financial and Budget Analyst for SCAT DOT, Hugh Moses, filled in for SCAT DOT Director, Marvin Mull, who was temporarily detained while attending a construction meeting on Route 6. He welcomed members of the Steering Committee and expressed his appreciation for their attendance. SCAT Transit Services Director, Bernadette Kniffin, provided the opening invocation. Participants then introduced themselves and stated what they hoped to accomplish by attending the meeting.

WHAT’S ON YOUR MIND - OPEN DISCUSSION

Paul David

- The Governor’s budget for this fiscal year’s HURF (Highway User Revenue Fund) has been diverted to education, and ADOT’s creation of projects and maintenance is affected. Maybe there is hope of federal money infusion with a new administration.
- There is work in progress by AGC (Association of General Contractors) and those concerned with transportation issues to pass legislation that will enable maintenance departments for

ADOT, municipalities and tribes to operate effectively by streamlining requirements and eliminating regulatory burdens for reasonable and cost effective practices.

- Thank you to ADOT and tribal entities for what they do with the “do more with less” climate.

Bill Bess

- Navajo County does not have the necessary equipment needed for snow removal and without HURF money, it will be a major challenge.

Debra Williams

- In light of funding issues, it is important that emergency services and emergency managers have emergency contracts in place.

Don Sneed

- We are working to update and revamp the ATTP (Arizona Tribal Transportation Partnership) website. ADOT hosts and updates the website for use by the tribal communities. There will be a new tab for training.

One training course covers five modules that provide information about intergovernmental relations with both state and federal native nations/tribal governments and effective tribal consultation and coordination.

- Module 1 - Overview of National and State Tribal Demographics
- Module 2 - Understanding Intergovernmental Relations with Native Nations/Tribal Governments – Federal
- Module 3 - Understanding Intergovernmental Relations with Native Nations/Tribal Governments – State
- Module 4 - Effective Tribal Consultation and Coordination
- Module 5 - ADOT Tribal Coordination with Tribal-focused Organizations

Additionally, a training course will include the ADOT Integrating Statewide and Tribal Transportation Planning workshop curriculum, which is an interactive computer-based training workshop to assist tribal personnel and decision makers in implementing projects in planning studies. A comprehensive database of transportation funding sources is also included.

- The state’s long-range transportation plan is about two-thirds complete. Once completed, notices and press releases will be sent to tribal and partnership contacts.
- It has been an ongoing challenge to get funding allocated for tribes efficiently transferred to the tribes. There have been several meetings and work that will serve to have direct fund transfers to tribes. Don will report on this development at a future meeting.

Bernadette Kniffin

- Transferring funds to tribes in the past was not easy, but this process will now be direct federal funding. She’s looking forward to this better process.

Bill Harmon

- Congratulations, best wishes and good luck Paul David, who was a highly valued member of the ADOT Southeast (Safford) District for many years and has now assumed the role of Graham County Supervisor.

Marvin Mull

- We need to have intergovernmental agreements to address the needs of the tribes, Gila and Graham Counties for necessary equipment and resources.

Mary Tapija

- Welcome to Paul David and Roger David. Thank you to Paul for his assistance in his current position and thank you, Paul, for all your assistance in your previous role with the ADOT Safford District.

9-1-1 EMERGENCY RESPONSE PRESENTATIONS

- **James Meyer and Sandra Dyre 9-1-1- presentations available at the following link:**
<http://www.aztribaltransportation.com/sca/index.asp>

ISSUE RESOLUTION LADDER

As a reminder, a new ladder column for each tribe has been added for police as well as for BIA. Linda Ritter noted that there are a number of names/contact information that still need to be added on the ladder. The ladder should be reviewed by agencies for any needed updates, and the update information provided to Linda via email. The ladder will continue to be presented for brief review through email and at all Steering Committee meetings, as its accuracy is important should any issues or emergencies arise.

REVIEW OF PARTNERSHIP LOGO

- A new logo for the partnership, found on the first page of this meeting summary, was accepted by the Steering Committee. It was designed from last year's logo meeting discussions and created with desert graphics representing the San Carlos Apache Tribe landscapes on one side of the logo and mountain graphics representing the White Mountain Apache Tribe landscapes on the other side, a roadrunner next to the roadway representing transit services, and a road in the logo's center representing the transportation partnership.

How best to include all Steering Committee agency names or logos with the new partnership logo was the last important step in designing the logo. Agency logos or agency names listed under the logo were previously provided through mockups and reviewed by the committee. The final logo presented at this meeting included the many agency names surrounding the logo in an arc above the logo. "Fort Apache Connection Transit" (part of WMAT) will need to be added, and the text "Association of" will be removed from "Central Arizona Association of Governments." Listed in order should be San Carlos Apache Tribe, then White Mountain Apache Tribe. The challenge with these revisions will be to make the text changes so that the arc is in balance above the logo.

GOALS/ACTION STEPS REPORT

- Director of Nnee Bich’o Nii Transit Services, Bernadette Kniffin, provided a presentation of Transit achievements. It is posted on the AZ Tribal Transportation website:
<http://www.aztribaltransportation.org/sca/index.asp>
- The Goals/Action Steps report was reviewed and action items were added. Achieved Goals are noted at the end of the document.
- The report is updated and posted on the AZ Tribal Transportation website:
<http://www.aztribaltransportation.org/sca/index.asp>
- The Steering Committee will update and document the goals that have been achieved at each Steering Committee meeting and develop new goals (with assistance at any future annual meetings from leadership), once existing goals are achieved.
- To better understand what goals and action items should be of focus in future meetings, and to assist with developing upcoming Steering Committee agenda items, the team agreed to write on their name tents (collected as the meeting adjourned) their overall purpose in attending the Steering Committee meetings. Responses are as follows:
 - Transportation information sharing/networking opportunities.
 - Want to know if, regionally, CAG can assist in anyway through:
 - Funding
 - Support letters
 - Research resources
 - Any services or database construction, etc.
 - 9-1-1 Infrastructure and the many partners it touches – critical stakeholders. Everybody’s input – members bringing ideas, etc. to the table – learning from each other.
 - 9-1-1 is the reason I come to these meetings. Knowing that what I have worked on will help someone in need at their worst day in their life. To learn how others do theirs and see what I can use. Where I can get a resource.
 - My driving force for attendance at these meetings is the multiple agencies that are partners, all coming to one table. I may have information that is helpful to others in the group and vice versa. However, there are other committees that WMAT is involved with that include ADOT as a partner, and scheduling to attend all those meetings is difficult, especially for transportation-related committees.
 - I have been attending these meetings for some time, and I am automatically elected, selected to attend.
 - Assist with technical assistance and coordination that will result in accomplishing activities/projects that benefit both the tribes and the state (ADOT). In partnership, I would like to see safety improvement projects accomplished. I also like to hear updates from both tribes on construction projects and ADOT construction projects.
 - Networking for transportation projects, current and future, meeting contacts from multiples agencies, more important tribal members in transportation.

- Learn all problems; how to get problems solved.
- For me- to get as much information as I can for transportation, to create partnership and meet with Bernie to get ideas from her.
- Know SCAT stakeholders and their issues; identify potential projects based on priority needs; share policy perspectives and implementation issues.

ANNUAL MEETING AND FUTURE STEERING COMMITTEE MEETINGS

- **Background**

At the July 27, 2016 Steering Committee meeting, it was determined to hold off the potential Annual Meeting until the following year- October 19, 2017. It was agreed that action items surrounding the Goals Plan still need to be completed before another Annual Meeting should potentially be held. The Goals/Action Steps report documents two years of efforts. The Annual Meeting in October 2015 discussed/reported what had been accomplished to that date. If there is a decision to have an Annual Meeting this year, the potential Annual Meeting date may have to be moved due to scheduling conflicts. At the next scheduled Steering Committee Meeting there will be discussion regarding when/if to hold the Annual meeting.

NEXT STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING

- The next Steering Committee meeting is anticipated to be held at Hon-Dah Conference Center in Pinetop in late April 2017. A “Hold the Date” announcement will be emailed to committee members as soon as the date is confirmed.
- At the last Steering Committee meeting in October, Bill Harmon summarized that reporting at the Annual Meeting will be about two types of accomplishments - Project Delivery and Process Improvements. Note that process improvements are a focal point of the Steering Committee’s Goals/Implementation Plan.
- Steering Committee meeting times will be shortened and will be held from **10 a.m. to 2 p.m.** to accommodate members’ busy schedules. It was agreed that the lunch hour provides a great time for networking.
- Please note that **the committee will meet on time at 10 a.m.** Some committee members have other overriding responsibilities and are not able to be in attendance at the 10 a.m. meeting start time; however, it is requested that other members plan to arrive 15 minutes early, around 9:45 a.m., to enjoy refreshments and “catch up” with other members, so the meeting can effectively start at 10 a.m., allowing good discussion opportunities. With your attention to the meeting’s start time, much progress can be made over the shortened 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. meeting schedule.

ROUNDTABLE – PARTNER UPDATES

Bill Harmon

- Thank you San Carlos Transit and Transportation for your gracious hospitality!
- ADOT has been downsizing through a “leanness” focus that includes using fewer resources and looking for opportunities to continuously improve processes. Additionally, the Southeast District has had a number of retirements. Understanding the fact that the District is working to do more with less resources is greatly appreciated.
- Discussions involving the potential for much more funding for transportation in the state with a new federal administration in place should be taken with a grain of salt. There are many transportation needs across the nation and many transportation divisions in need of funds. Any increase in funding will be shared across the board.
- The Arizona Cliffrose is a threatened species and construction efforts must take this environmental issue into account.
- Bylas is being advertised as soon as it is in order. ADOT is waiting for the railroad to complete its process. ADOT has the right-of-way plans online. All the old highway plans were made available online last week.
- All minor improvement projects are due the first week of February. Bill is recommending extending the US 70 passing lane in this area.
- The USFS (U.S. Forest Service) and ADOT are working to construct a Mount Graham Interpretive Center on Columbine to portray the history and natural resources of the area. The purpose of the Center is to tell the story of the mountain. There is room for a tribal display. Marvin Mull is working on this
- The dirt road to the Center has been causing problems with materials going into the watershed, and USFS and ADOT are planning to pave the road to prevent this problem. If there are people with concerns about the roadway being paved, please contact Bill Harmon.
- In the future, especially in light of the storms recently, drive and be safe. If you don’t have to be in the weather, don’t drive in it – think about staying home.

Marvin Mull

- Marvin requested an update on the high school turning lane. Bill Harmon stated that it is moving forward and is currently in design.
- Marvin also requested information on US 70 and Route 6. Bill stated that this should be in place and moving by the end of the fiscal year.
- Route 6 construction is moving along. This effort has been underway since 2010, and it is good to see it coming to fruition. There will be three lanes, including a center turn lane and sidewalk.

Kathy Borquez

- Access to the Apache Sky Casino under construction in the Dudleyville/Mammoth area is moving forward.

Travis Ashbaugh

- The Transportation Technical Advisory Committee meeting will be held on February 9 in Globe, where a regional study for transit in Pinal County will be kicked off.
- Note the HSIP (Highway Safety Improvement Program) is coming out soon – February 9.

Don Snead

- The Tribal Transportation Update has been provided to the tribes. Please be sure to review this.

Charlene Mullis

- Charlene is in the process of working with Charles Russel and the BIA to get the necessary paperwork for the Bylas project.

THE MEETING ADJOURNED AT 2:30 P.M. WITH A CLOSING PRAYER LED BY TRAVIS ASHBAUGH

NEXT MEETING AGENDA

The next Steering Committee meeting at Hon-Dah Casino and Conference Center in Pinetop will be held **from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Thursday, April 27, 2017**. The agenda will include:

- “What’s on your mind?” – Open Discussion
- Issue Resolution Ladder review
- Goals/Action items update
- Planning for future meetings
- Partnership updates

ACTION ITEMS PRIOR TO THE NEXT MEETING

- Be sure to review the Issue Resolution Ladder for your agency and provide Linda with any updated information via email.
- Linda Ritter will get in touch with Nate Nash to ask him if he can provide an update regarding the 9-1-1 system at the next meeting.
- Bill Bess will draft a letter to the State Transportation Board (to be additionally used by tribal and other agencies) regarding the need for transportation funding. The draft letter will be reviewed as part of the Goals/Action Items discussion at the next Steering Committee meeting.
- Be ready to talk as a group about CDL driver safety and protocol issues/concerns/action items during the Goals/Action Items discussion.
- Be ready to talk as a group about safety and pavement preservation funding opportunities and action items for securing these funds during the Goals/Action Items discussion.
- Be ready to talk about next meeting dates and help identify agenda and/or goal items for those meetings.

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? 4.18 out of 5
2. Could you or other team members have done anything more during the meeting to encourage a successful outcome? 4 Yes/7 No
3. How well did the facilitator guide and encourage team members to understand and discuss key meeting items? 4.09 out of 5
4. How do you rate the effectiveness of the speaker(s)? 4.18 out of 5
5. How do you rate the effectiveness of the team? 4.36 out of 5
6. Do you have any suggestions for improving future meetings? 1 Yes/10 No
7. How satisfied were you with the facility? 4.36 out of 5
8. How satisfied were you with the refreshments? 4.27 out of 5

Comments

- For future meetings, start the meeting on time!
- I like the new start and end time of the meeting. I really enjoyed the presentations!
- Reminders to be sent or action items halfway between meeting dates if due for next meeting.
- Just that some members were not in attendance and it would have been good to hear from them.
- Facilitator should have knowledge of subject and keep the group going.
- Thanks to San Carlos Transportation and Transit for their hospitality!
- Bill Harmon needs to follow up in his duties.