

Navajo Nation and Arizona Transportation Partnership Annual Meeting Notes



FRIDAY, APRIL 27, 2018

9:00 A.M. TO 1:00 P.M.

Navajo Nation Division of Transportation Complex

Mentmore, AZ

Facilitator: Laura Webb

Attendees:

Name	Title	Organization	Email
Benjamin Bennett	Vice Chair, Res.& Dev.	Navajo Nation	bbennett@navajo-nsn.gov
Joelynn Ashley	Div. Dir. General Svs	Navajo Nation	jmashley@navajo-nsn.gov
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Carl Slater	Airports Manager	Navajo DOT	cslater@navajodot.org
Karen Benally	Department Manager	Navajo DOT	kbenally@navajodot.org
Chuck Howe		Navajo DOT	chowe@c2-env.com
LeAnne Roy	GIS Supervisor	Navajo DOT	lroy@navajodot.org
Norma Bowman	Department Manager	Navajo DOT	nbowman@navajodot.org
Darryl Bradley	Principle Civil Eng.	Navajo DOT	dbradley@navajodot.org
Garret Silversmith	Director	Navajo DOT	gsilversmith@navajodot.org
Taft Blackhorse		Navajo DOT	tblackhorse@navajodot.org
Marlinda Littleman		Navajo DOT	mlittleman@navajodot.org
Elean Yazzie		Navajo DOT	eyazzie@navajodot.org
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Marilyn Yazzie		Navajo DOT	
Colyan Begay		Navajo DOT	colyanb@navajodot.org
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Verna Tsosie		Environ. Spec.	vtosie@navajodot.org
Jesse Thompson	Supervisor District 2	Navajo County	jesse.thompson@navajocountyaz.gov
Bill Bess	County Engineer	Navajo County	bill.bess@navajocountyaz.gov
John Osgood		Navajo County	John.osgood@navajocountyaz.org
Romare Truely	Community Planner	FHWA	romare.truely@dot.gov
Karla Petty	Division Administrator	FHWA	Karla.Petty@dot.gov
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Jason James	Transportation Planner	NACOG	jjames@nacog.org
Greg Byres	MPD Director	ADOT	gbyres@azdot.gov
Mike Carter	Partnering Admin.	ADOT	mcarter@azdot.gov

Contrella Dixon	Utility and Railroad	ADOT	cdixon@azdot.gov
Ermalinda Gene	Tribal Liaison	ADOT	egene@azdot.gov
Ruth Greenspan	Environ. Planning	ADOT	rgreenspan@azdot.gov
Jesse Gutierrez	State Engineer	ADOT	jgutierrez@azdot.gov
Dallas Hammit	Deputy Director	ADOT	dhammit@azdot.gov
Nichole Jenks	Partnering Facilitator	ADOT	njenks@azdot.gov
Tim Jordan	TSMO Crash Data	ADOT	tjordan@azdot.gov
Audra Merrick	NC District Engineer	ADOT	amerrick@azdot.gov
Charlene Mullis	Right of Way	ADOT	cmullis@azdot.gov
Bonnie Opie	Program Admin.	ADOT	bopie@azdot.gov
Kee Yazzie	NE Dist. Dev. TES	ADOT	kyazzie@azdot.gov
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Ed Wilson	NE Dist. ADE	ADOT	jwilson@azdot.gov

Overview

The annual meeting for the Navajo Nation and Arizona Transportation Partnership was held on April 27, 2018 at the Navajo Division of Transportation Complex in Mentmore, NM. There has not been an annual meeting since October 22, 2015 and attendees enjoyed reconnecting with one another and hearing success stories that portrayed the accomplishments of the partnership over the last couple of years.

The agenda for this meeting was developed by the steering committee members who met on January 31, 2018 in Flagstaff, AZ. Through an interactive exercise, they identified the top three issues to present to the group for consideration as goals to work on during the next year.

The notes, goals implementation plans and presentations from this meeting are available on www.aztribaltransportation.org.

Welcome Address

- Garrett Silversmith, NDOT Division Director, said the partnership is successful and he is seeing progress within the Navajo Nation. He praised the success of several recent projects (turnouts) and encouraged the group to keep the momentum going.
- Karla Petty, FHWA Division Administrator, emphasized that the partnership works and provides a foundation to achieve successes. She cited the SR89 landslide event as an example of when the partnership made something positive out of a tragic situation. Karla reminded everyone to understand each other's resources and boundaries and continue to display a "can do" attitude.
- Dallas Hammit, ADOT Deputy Director, said the transportation industry needs to speak with data in order to fund projects and is enthusiastic about the implementation of crash data collection. He said it takes time to solve problems and appreciates the work that is being done by the committee that has been working to accomplish the crash data goal.

Partnering Overview

ADOT Partnering Facilitator, Laura Webb, provided a brief review of the four partnering principles (Four C's): Communication, Commitment, Cooperation and Continuous Improvement

Success Stories

- ADOT millings project with Navajo County – Bill Bess, Navajo County
- Navajo County and NDOT used millings to complete three school bus turnarounds to increase safety for students – Jesse Thompson, Navajo County
- Five-year road graveling project to target gravel segments for bus routes/turnarounds – Bill Bess, Navajo County
- Sign panel replacement of old regulatory and warning signs – Jason James, NACOG
- Complete/partial transfer of FHWA's environmental review responsibilities under NEPA to ADOT – Ruth Greenspan, ADOT Environmental Planning
- Sign installation in honor of the Navajo Nation Treaty of 1868 anniversary – Carl Slater, NDOT Airports Manager
- Counties successfully working together on millings projects – Taft Blackhorse, NDOT

Priority Issues/Presentations and Establishing Goals

Goal #1 – Gravel Roads – Resources and Construction, Bill Bess, Navajo County

Purpose: To construct gravel segments for bus routes/turnarounds to improve safety for residents and students.

Goals:

- Engage in planning for and targeting potential gravel segments
- Identify funding, gravel and water sources

Breakout Session

Factors to take into consideration:

- Prioritization of roads and environmental clearances
- Existing road conditions and improvements needed prior to placing gravel
- Cost, borrow source/gravel pits and distance to necessary resources
- Location of school bus routes
- Data: Traffic counts, crash data, etc.
- Water usage and alternatives in construction process

Resources:

- Navajo Department of Transportation (NDOT) – Road inventory, maps, current road conditions, cost per mile for gravel, equipment, manpower, compliance resources.
- Navajo County – Supports NDOT and BIA. Resources include equipment, manpower, administrative support and engineering services.
- New Mexico DOT has mapping resources available.
- School Districts – Bus route information, road priorities and current road conditions.
- Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) – Research and best practices and ability to provide millings through donation to Navajo County only.

Action Items/ Points of Contact

- **NDOT**-Will work with Chapters, Planning Department, Community and Council outreach.
- The Planning Dept. will act as the Oversight Committee.
- Arlando Teller is the point of contact for NDOT.
- **Navajo County**- Planning Meetings, Chapter/Village meetings arranged through the Tribal Government Relations Director:
- Bill Bess, Miles Begay and Evalina Claw are the points of contact.
- **ADOT**-Communications and public outreach including radio, public information officers, newspapers, public service announcements.

Goal #2 – Education and Training, Jason James, NACOG

Purpose: To streamline programs and processes, ensure more effective decision making, and increase success in getting projects funded.

Goals:

- Increase knowledge about processes and funding sources
- Improve communication and coordination
- Increase advocacy for new projects
- Develop educational opportunities for students

Breakout Session

Ideas for Professional Training Opportunities

Funding/Resources
Availability and access to funding
Procedures regulations & budget
Learn about roles and responsibilities of all local/regional state/federal agencies, and what they can provide Tribes
Administration/Training/Education
Navigate the administrative process
Training resources to complete forms
Resources to assist with providing training
Consultant monitoring
List serves for education series, monthly basis individual lead
ERM-Jason, Marco, Serves plans
Planning pathway communication
Planning
Integrating plans
Communication of the Five-year plan
STIP, TTJP
Helping Tribal government understand how MPO/COG’s can assist in advancing Tribal Transportation priorities
How to get involved in project scoping so some issues can be resolved on upcoming projects
Establish a one- year goal, incorporate education and training and plan budget
Processes
NEPA, ROW, LRTP, HSIP, TTIP, STIP
Complete count committees- PCP-Fed.
Environmental review requirements and process
RFP and RFQ processes

Ideas for Community Outreach Efforts

Public involvement
Public interest
Parade permit request
Get into MS & HS for career days
Summer job programs
EIT program
Scholarships
Vendors in ROW turn outs
MCW to do regional communication

Action Items/Points of Contact

- Utilize the Planning Pathways tool (designed by ADOT and partners) to educate the public and leaders about transportation processes. Individuals can click through interactive elements to open training modules outlining key steps and processes.
Ermalinda Gene, ADOT, Lead; Jason James, NACOG and Marco Sells, NDOT are Partnering Champions.
- Develop a Professional Development Series (further discussion at next steering committee meeting)

Goal #3 – Crash Data/AZTraCS software, Tim Jordan, ADOT, and Norma Bowman, NDOT

Purpose: to assist in developing traffic crash reports in which data can be used to justify funding requests for items such as road improvements, safety initiatives and additional enforcement making roadways on the Navajo Nation safer for those that use them.

Goals:

- Collect data that can be transmitted to a central server and ADOT.
- Signed agreements to allow project to move forward

Breakout Session

Action Items/Points of Contact

- Data Access Agreement is needed for connectivity to ADOT to submit crash reports and retrieve and analyze data.
- Finalize the IGA which is the actual AZTraCS contract that describes the scope of work.
- Need to develop an implementation plan. Tim and Norma will meet with law enforcement leaders and include a consistent crash form.
- Need to learn what options are available in areas where there is no WIFI or signal.
- Need to install hardware and implement support
- Department of Justice Attorney and Norma Bowman and Colyan Begay, NDOT will continue to lead and engage decision making.

Sign Partnership Charter

All attendees signed the updated charter to formalize their continued commitment to the partnership.

Benediction

Jesse Thompson provided the closing benediction.

Next Steps

- More specific goals and action items will be established for the Education and Training goal at the next Steering Committee meeting which will be scheduled in late July.
- The Goals Implementation Plan will be updated with the new goals and action items.

Summary of Participant Meeting Evaluation

Scores are based on 22 evaluations. Comments are taken from the evaluation forms exactly as written.

1. How valuable was this meeting for you? (1=Lowest/ 5=Highest) 4.28
2. Could you or other team members have done anything more during the meeting to encourage a successful outcome? Yes 6 No 15
3. How well did the facilitator guide and encourage the team to understand and discuss key meeting agenda items? (1=Lowest/ 5=Highest) 4.14
4. How do you rate the effectiveness of the team? (1=Lowest/5=Highest) 4.23
5. Do you have any suggestions for improving future meetings? Yes 9 No 10
6. How satisfied were you with the facility? (1=Lowest/ 5=Highest) 4.66
7. How satisfied were you with the refreshments? (1=Lowest/ 5= Highest) 4.09 N/A 1

Comments:

- Focusing the meeting on a few (3) hot topics was very beneficial to a productive and effective meeting. Always great to see the members of the Partnership. The annual meeting provides a wonderful opportunity to renew our commitment and strengthen our relationships
- Need more time in all Tribal partnership meetings to allow for information to thoroughly be discussed. The meeting felt very rushed for the amount of information that was covered.
- Great to see our partners and taking time for their busy schedules to attend this meeting. Great discussions on a variety of topics and appreciate hearing about the successes and working to address issues and challenges. Would be great to have longer time for discussions.
- More time to develop small group ideas, I know the time frame was tight, but if we want to make advancements, a full day meeting may be needed.
- Great meeting! Thank you, Additional topics to be discussed, for example improvement in project coordination.
- Very informative, good opportunity to meet face to face with colleagues you don't always see.
- 1.) More Tribal level staff attend 2). Longer meetings or intermittent meetings to work on issues from ownership point of view 3). Include discussion on ongoing "projects" from "owners"
- I think the meeting was useful, though as a support manager, most topics weren't relevant to my job. The topics or initiatives chosen at the end of the meeting are great initiatives for the next year. Gravel pits, education, and crash data are priorities for the division and opportunity to partners invited in this effort
- Needs to go back to 3PM, or go back to the two day. Too much information to rush the process.
- Please provide attendees PDF or PPT from today. Great progress on crash data.
- Take the time on presentation, would like to know more and take it back to Community.

- Looking forward to continue the partnership. Will miss Bopie! Congratulations on your retirement. Thank you so much!
- (5). Find out how long presentations are and provide enough time for presentation to be completed.
- More time given to presenters
- All good!
- (6) Awesome Facility!