



Transportation Technical Advisory Committee

May 13, 2021 Meeting Minutes

DATE: May 13, 2021
TIME: 10:00 a.m.
LOCATION: Zoom Webinar

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Larry Halberstadt - *Chair*
(Payson)

Scott Warren
(Gila County)

Rick Powers
(Globe)

Nina Arredondo
(Pinal County)

Barney Bigman
(San Carlos Apache Tribe)

Micah Gaudet
(Miami)

Lana Clark
(Superior)

John Schempf
(Mammoth)

Jason James
(ADOT - MPD)

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Tim Grier
(Star Valley)

Sandra Shade
(Ak-Chin Indian Community)

VACANT
(Hayden)

Martina Burnam
(Kearny)

Sylvia Kerlock
(Winkelman)

Tara Chief
(White Mountain Apache Tribe)

GUESTS PRESENT:

Mark Henige
(ADOT LPA)

Kevin Adam
(Rural Transportation Advocacy Council)

James Minefee
(ADOT Southeast District)

CAG Staff:

Travis Ashbaugh
(Transportation Planning Manager)

I. Call to Order

Chair Halberstadt called the meeting to order at 10:05 AM.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Halberstadt led the Committee in the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. Roll Call

Roll call was taken. Nine (9) voting members were present, constituting a quorum as established by the CAG TTAC Bylaws.

IV. Introductions & Title VI Notice

Introductions were made individually on the Webinar. Mr. Ashbaugh, at this time, read a statement of where and how to file a complaint regarding Title VI violations.

V. Approval Of Minutes – (March 18, 2021)

Mr. Warren made the motion to approve the March 18, 2021 minutes as presented. Mr. James seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

VI. Call to the Public

No one answered the call to the public.

VII. Standing Reports

A. Member Jurisdictions

Gila County

Mr. Warren reported on one (1) item:

1. Environmental Clearances for the **“Golden Hill Road”** sidewalk project (**Project # GIL 18-01D / TRACTS # T009001D**) were received on May 11, 2021. The Temporary Construction Easements (TCEs) are now being pursued with the five property owners. The project is expected to advertise for construction before September 30, 2021.

Payson

Mr. Halberstadt reported on one (1) item:

1. The Town is continuing to work on the 60 percent Design plans and Right-Of-Way (ROW) acquisition on the **“Granite Dells Road”** project (**Project # PAY 19-01D**).

Globe

Mr. Powers reported on two (2) items:

1. The Design for the **“Pinal Creek Bridge – Cottonwood Street (Structure #9711)”** project (**Project # GLB 21-01D**) should be starting soon. Jacobs Engineering was the consultant selected to conduct the Design work.
2. The IGA for the Highway Safety Infrastructure Program (HSIP) project **“White Mountain Road (BIA 10) & Airport Road – Street Light Project (Project # SCA 21-01D)** in San Carlos, has been signed by the Tribe and sent back to ADOT. Once ADOT signs off, Design can begin.

B. Multi-Modal Planning Division, ADOT

Mr. James reported on three (3) items:

1. The **FY22-26 Tentative Five-Year Program** was presented to the State Transportation Board on April 16, 2021. The next planned public hearings are scheduled to be held on May 21, 2021. The projected approval of the Five-Year Program is scheduled for June 18, 2021.
2. The U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) has recently published a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) to apply for \$1 billion in FY2021 discretionary grant funding through the Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE) grants. RAISE was formerly known as BUILD and TIGER. For this round of RAISE grants, the maximum grant award is \$25 million, and no more than \$100 million can be awarded to a single State, as specified in the appropriations act. Up to \$30 million will be awarded to planning grants, including at least \$10 million to Areas of Persistent Poverty. To provide technical assistance to prospective applicants, DOT is hosting a series of webinars during the FY2021 RAISE grant application process. To register for the webinars visit www.transportation.gov/RAISEgrants/outreach. The deadline to submit an application is July 12, 2021 at 5pm Eastern.
3. The **HSIP Call-for-Projects – FY25/26** is scheduled to advertise on July 1, 2021. Due date for the HSIP applications is November 1, 2021.

C. Local Public Agency, ADOT

Mr. Henige reported on five (5) items:

1. Starting July 1, 2021, all projects must use the new 2021 ADOT Standard Specifications Manual.
2. ADOT Roadway Design Guidelines were updated and is now available as of January 2021.
3. Links for the HSIP presentation from the EDC Stakeholder Meeting that was held in March 2021 will be sent to be shared with the TTAC members.
4. Made a request for any information-topics from TTAC members with regards to processes, successes and/or challenges for Local Agencies with Fed-aid projects. Topics could be discussed at the next "Every Day Counts" quarterly meeting that is scheduled for June 2021. However, the June 2021 meeting may be canceled.
5. Module 2 of 7 of the ADOT LPA Training series is scheduled for May 20, 2021 in which process of project initiation will be discussed.

D. District, Engineers, ADOT

Mr. Minefee from the Southeast District had two (2) items to report:

1. The repairs on the fencing that was damaged from the Salt & Griffin fire was completed and will be closing out the project relatively soon.
2. The Southeast District is planning on submitting an HSIP application for a walkway out near the San Carlos Apache Gold Casino

E. CAG Transportation Planning Update

Mr. Ashbaugh had four (4) items to report:

1. The Pinal County Transit Governance Study has wrapped up. All presentations that were scheduled regarding the final recommendations have been presented. The Final Report and all associated study documents can be accessed on the CAG website.
2. The Gila County Transit Governance Study (GCTGS) is in the final stages. The last Technical Working Group (TWG) of the study was held in April 2021 to look over where cost benefits and efficiencies could be made if combining services under one governing body. The TWG requested to see the detailed figures that was behind the analysis. The consultants (AECOM) are currently looking more into the detailed financials of the major providers, as well as Gila County as a whole, with regards to transit funded activities to provide an analysis suggested by the TWG. The next schedule TWG meeting is yet to be determined however the Project Management Team will be going over the detailed figures in the coming week.
3. Traffic Counts for the Calendar Year of 2021 are now complete and have been uploaded to the MS2 website (<https://cag.public.ms2soft.com/tcds/tsearch.asp?loc=Cag&mod=>). These were the 17 "growth counts" that captured 7-day counts. Each community should have had at least one count location and this is done every year. For Calendar Year 2022, only the 17 "growth counts" are scheduled to be counted. CAG would then have to send out an Request for Proposals (RFP) to begin the next six-year cycle of counts in which year one would count all 400 locations required by the Highway Performance Monitoring System (HPMS) program.
4. Pictures of the newly constructed Winkelman bridge were also shared that were received from Sylvia Kerlock from the Town.

VIII. Old Business

Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

No action was taken. Mr. Ashbaugh stated that a “Call-for-Projects” regarding the Surface Transportation Block Grant Program (STBGP) funds soon. He hopes to make that call for the July 2021 meeting but is waiting on a few situations involving other projects to clear before initiating that process. The “Call-for-Projects” would most likely be for the latter years of the 10-year TIP.

IX. New Business

A. RTAC Regional Project List – Call-for-Projects

Mr. Ashbaugh stated this topic has been preliminarily discussed to the committee at the last meeting. The Rural Transportation Advocacy Council (RTAC) is looking to gather a list of local projects from each of the rural Councils of Governments (COGs) and seek expected State Budget Surplus funds for the FY23 Budget cycle. Mr. Adam, the administrator of RTAC provided the background and explanation for the momentum behind such an endeavor.

Mr. Adam stated that if one is following what is happening at the state capital and in Washington D.C., there appears to be plenty of revenue opportunities to be directed towards transportation over the next few years. It is not clear how all this will manifest itself, but there are many one-time funding bills towards transportation on the state level, while earmarking is becoming more popular again on the federal level. On the state level, there has been growing support from State Legislators to fund infrastructure, but that support has stopped short of supporting a fuel tax increase or raising revenues to do so. He stated that since the economy has been good over the last few years and has generated surplus revenues, it has created a perfect opportunity for the State Legislators to support infrastructure needs without raising taxes.

Mr. Adam stated that the big problem with earmarking is that it potentially separates the project from normal programming and prioritizing parameters. He stated when Legislators are presenting their one-time funding bills regarding infrastructure, they easily make the case and show the merits for that specific project, however, they fail to justify why that project should move to the front of the “funding line” without going through a formal prioritization process. He stated that through RTAC, the members will continue to explore funding opportunities and strategies in which to affectively go after State Budget Surplus funds. Mr. Adam stated that this is a compromise using earmarking and providing a list of projects that was prioritized through the regional planning organizations planning processes within the Greater Arizona region.

Mr. Ashbaugh then proceeded to run down through the application process. He explained the application follows the same concept of CAG’s Surface Transportation Block Grant Program (STBGP) application with the exception that no local match is required but highly encouraged. He then proceeded to explain the scoring aspect of the application in that additional bonus points will be awarded (1 additional point for every 5% of local matching funds; 5 additional points if partnering with another agency). Mr. Ashbaugh stated that TTAC will rank these projects and then collectively come up with a prioritization list that enables our region to select the top project(s) to be submitted to RTAC for the \$40 million package by October 1, 2021.

B. Round Table

Ms. Arredondo stated that the consultant on the BUILD Grant that was awarded to Pinal County is now preparing build descriptions and exhibits for ROW. This will be part of the 95 percent plans submission that is due the first week of June 2021. The Draft Geotechnical Report is expected to be completed at the end of



May 2021. The virtual public presentation regarding the project went live on May 3, 2021 and is available for 30 days for review and provide comments.

C. Future Agenda Items

Mr. Ashbaugh asked the Committee if they would want to have ADOT conduct an HSIP Application presentation as they have done in the past as there are new members on this committee. Mr. Henige reminded the committee that there are links available from the “Planning Level Estimates – Every Day Counts Local Public Agencies – Part 3” series that recorded such a presentation. Mr. Henige also noted that ADOT may schedule a workshop to go over these details right before the official Call-for-Projects and that he will check in those associated with the program.

X. Scheduling of Next Meetings

Mr. Ashbaugh stated that the next series of meetings scheduled for June through August should be carried out due to the Call-for-Projects of the RTAC Regional Project List. He stated that the next scheduled meeting is on June 17, 2021 @ 10:00 AM. After asking the committee regarding meeting in person moving forward, he stated he would look into meeting in person starting with the June 17, 2021 Meeting. He also clarified that moving forward, a virtual option shall remain in place as an option for every meeting.

XI. Adjournment

Chair Halberstadt adjourned the meeting at 11:00 AM.