



Gila County Transit Governance Study Technical Working Group Meeting #4

January 21, 2021 Meeting Minutes

DATE: January 21, 2021
TIME: 2:00 PM
LOCATION: ZOOM Webinar

ATTENDEES:

Travis Ashbaugh
(CAG)

Robert Mawson
(CAG)

Jill Dusenberry
(ADOT Transit)

Larry Halberstadt
(City of Payson)

Trevor Fleetham
(City of Payson)

Marsha Ashcroft
(Horizon Health and Wellness)

Joanne Conlin
(Payson Senior Center)

Micah Gaudet
(Town of Miami)

Cathy Melvin
(Gila County)

Daksha Masurkar
(AECOM)

Vamshi Yellisetty
(Kittelson)

Jennifer Love
(AECOM)

Scott Baker
(AECOM)

Rick Powers
(Richard Powers Consulting)

Viktor Zhong
(AECOM)

Phyllis Davis
(Kittelson)

INVITEES ABSENT:

Chancy Nutt
(Star Valley)

Jerry Barnes
(Globe)

Michael Hernandez
(Payson Senior Center)

Bobby Smith
(Hayden)

Joe Heatherly
(Miami)

Tara Chief
(White Mountain Apache Tribe)

Sylvia Kerlock
(Winkelman)

Michael O'Driscoll
(Gila County)

Mike Marryat
(Payson Senior Center)

Bernadette Kniffin
(San Carlos Apache Tribe)

Cassie Kenton-Garcia
(White Mountain Apache Tribe)

Katie Dwoznik
(Miami Transit)

1. Safety Moment

Jennifer started the presentation with a safety moment regarding safety measures related to aggressive driving. Suggested the use of #77 to report reckless driving.

2. CAG Title VI Notice

Travis announced a Title VI Notice to all the Technical Working Group (TWG) members.

3. Introductions

All the participants of the TWG meeting introduced themselves and their associated agencies.

4. Comments on Peer Agency Review (Final)

No comments from the TWG members.



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5. Survey Overview

Jennifer presented the results of the online survey and opened the floor for comments and questions.

Travis (CAG) – We should plan to use similar survey questions for the Stakeholder Workshop and see how the elected official respond to some of the open-ended questions.

6. Recommendations for Regional Transit Governance

Governance Model - Option 1

Travis (CAG) – Tribes will administer their own functions and operate their transit services but maybe we can have some regional functions like call center, employee training and procurement. Need to follow up with the tribes to understand their preference.

Joanne (Payson Senior Center) – The new entity needs to have experience, as agency or personnel, with transit administration and operations. Extensive background on how to make a regional entity work.

Travis (CAG) – As an entity, Gila County makes most sense but okay with an existing transit agency that would like to expand and carry out regional functions.

Micah (Town of Miami) - Will having a regional entity affect funding source and current funding? How will the funding be distributed to local transit agencies?

Jill (ADOT) - ADOT transit funds only cover transit functions which does not allow more than 25% of operating costs as administration costs, except during COVID. Annually ADOT receives \$14 million from federal funds which is currently committed.

Scott (AECOM) – Funding is formula based driven based on population, services, etc, and the regional entity would distribute the funds in the similar manner. If transit is centralized, the level of transit funding would increase in the manner of discretionary funding in addition to formula-based funding.

Micah (Town of Miami) – Did setting up an IPTA helped local agencies in acquiring additional funding? Any national or Arizona based examples. Will the IPTA in Gila County compete with other regional transit agencies like Valley Metro?

Jill (ADOT) – Gila County transit agencies do not compete with Valley Metro, as it is a RPTA and not an IPTA. Funding is based on population that covers transit costs only. YCIPTA is a good regional example. Consolidation of grant application process will definitely help with cost savings as you would need just one expert. Other functions like policy development – keep policies up to date and procurement, can be consolidated as well.

Jennifer (AECOM) – Maybe we can approach it as consolidation of near-term functions and then long-term functions, phased implementation.

Travis (CAG) – How do we get started with the initial set up? Is there existing funding in place to help start the regional entity?

Scott (AECOM) – IGA is a good starting tool to achieve IPTA. IGA can be set up with an independent exploratory committee. Exploratory committee that will oversee consolidated functions and IGA.

Micah (Town of Miami) – How will public and private partnerships work?



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Jill (ADOT) - YCIPTA has community college on the board. Private entities can be part of the regional governance structure as long as they are non-profit organizations. However, it is difficult to add a non-profit organization for an IGA. For 5310 subrecipients, state purchases vehicles for them, but they still do Title VI and other FTA compliance.

Travis (CAG) – All the jurisdictions should be part of the regional governance Board even if they do not have a current transit service, as these jurisdictions might need transit in the future.

Marsha (Horizon Health and Wellness) - It would be great if they can let someone take over human services transportation. Senior centers provide transportation to clients to make service accessible, but transportation is not their business.

Governance Model - Option 2

Travis (CAG) - Who selects the members to represent the jurisdiction? Maybe governing body of the local jurisdiction would do the selection.

Weighted voting based on population is a good option, but smaller population towns will have a fraction of a vote.

Jill (ADOT) – Revised Arizona Statutes have guidance for the formation of the IPTA.

Participation is based upon the transit services provided in the community. MAG and YMPO has a weighted voting option.

Micah (Town of Miami) - Many cities and towns have population visiting the area and might not be accounted for in an area's base population but may be more services are provided to cater to the visitor population.

Joanne (Payson Senior Center) – Option 1 – How would insurance work? Is it possible to consolidate insurance?

Jill (ADOT) – Insurance rates for non-profit organizations are very high. Public agencies use the government provided insurance. IPTA could insure for all.

Micah - Is it possible to look at this as step 1 and step 2 for forming a consolidated IPTA? It would be more of an option 3. It goes long way in establishing trust and work together.

Jill (ADOT) - We have some providers who want to consolidate the functions in the near-term, need a short-term solution for Payson Senior Center.

Scott (AECOM) – This is an opportunity to do competitive contracting out of operation functions if they move to an IPTA.

7. Stakeholder Workshop Approach

Jennifer (AECOM) – Suggested that we present progress so far and get feedback on regional governance options. Workshop shall include an interactive virtual survey at the beginning and then at the end to compare results.

Travis (CAG) – It might be helpful to have 2 workshops, one in the morning and another one in the evening to give the stakeholders an option to join either of the meeting. Need to use breakout rooms to discuss concerns and opportunities of the governance model options. In general, make the workshop more interactive for the stakeholders to participate.



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8. Next Steps

Travis requested the TWG members to fill out the in-kind form, with name and hours spend on preparing for the TWG meeting. The completed in-kind form must be returned to Travis.

TWG members will be invited for the Stakeholder Workshop.

The next TWG meeting will be scheduled after the Stakeholder Workshop.

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