



Gila County Transit Governance Study Technical Working Group Meeting #2

October 29, 2020 Meeting Minutes

DATE: October 29, 2020

TIME: 2:00PM

LOCATION: ZOOM Webinar

ATTENDEES:

Travis Ashbaugh
(CAG)

Robert Mawson
(CAG)

Jill Dusenberry
(ADOT Transit)

Michael O'Driscoll
(Gila County)

Trevor Fleetham
(City of Payson)

Marsha Ashcroft
(Horizon Health and Wellness)

Larry Halberstadt
(City of Payson)

Joanne Conlin
(Payson Senior Center)

Jennifer Love
(AECOM)

Daksha Masurkar
(AECOM)

Phyllis Davis
(Kittelson)

Vamshi Yellisetty
(Kittelson)

Rick Powers
(Richard Powers Consulting)

Viktor Zhong
(AECOM)

Scott Baker
(AECOM)

Katie Dwoznik
(Miami Transit)

Sylvia Kerlock
(Winkelman)

Cassie Kenton-Garcia
(White Mountain Apache Tribe)

Bernadette Kniffin
(San Carlos Apache Tribe)

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)

1. Safety Moment

Jennifer started the presentation with a safety moment regarding caution against wildlife at night in residential areas.

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. Working Paper #1 – Review of Comments

All the TWG members have one more week (November 5th) to review the working paper and provide comments.

Phyllis provided an overview of the Existing Transit Services and Governance Structures working paper.

The highlighted sentences in the working paper indicates data that will be updated as it is received from different transit agencies.



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Jennifer requested the TWG members to look at the service information documented in the working paper and update the information if necessary. All the latest data sources have been provided in the working paper, but inputs are welcomed to update it to the latest accurate service information.

The Greyhound bus does stop at AM/PM in Globe-Miami. There are Greyhound bus stops (2) in the San Carlos Apache Reservation but the bus is not currently stopping due to COVID-19 situation. Bernadette mentioned that the services will resume soon and will know more about it next week.

Robert Mawson - Pleasant Valley Transit in the Young area is looking for transit connection and we can probably connect with them to understand their needs. Robert will be providing contact information to Phyllis.

Robert Mawson - Some agencies have voluntary drivers, which are classified as part -time but it would be good to know how many employees are voluntary and salaried.

Vamshi and Phyllis - Along with interviewing transit agencies in Gila County, stakeholder interviews were simultaneously being conducted with elected officials and Town Managers. In general, received a positive feedback on current transit services and were excited about recommendations from this study and future partnerships.

The stakeholders will be reached out as we move forward into the study to get feedback on potential governance structure options.

Existing Transit Services and Governance Structures working paper will be finalized after receiving comments from the TWG members and missing information. Additionally, a Stakeholder Interview Summary will be prepared to document all the stakeholder interviews and will be circulated to the TWG members.

5. Data Needs

A meeting has been set up with White Mountain Apache for next week (November 6th).

Additional 2019 NTD data was provided by ADOT.

Bernadette Kniffin (San Carlos Apache Tribe) will be providing all the existing services information by November 5th once they receive approval from the Transportation Board.

Discussion regarding Peer Agencies:

Jill – Suggested to refer 5311 funded agencies as peers, as many of the 5311 funding criteria applies to Gila County as well.

Travis – Interested in looking at larger agencies within Arizona as the governance structure might be relevant. This includes 5307 funded agencies like:

- NAIPTA (Flagstaff, AZ)
- Vista Transit (Sierra Vista, AZ) - would be closest as they started as 5311 and moved to 5307 funds
- YCIPTA/YCAT (Yuma, AZ)

Few other peer agencies to look at could be Rogue Valley Transportation District (Medford, OR) and South Clackamas Transportation District (Molalla/Canby, OR).

Scott - For the Peer Agency Review, AECOM will be examining:

- types of boards (elected, appointed)
- abilities of an authority (raising taxes, owning real property, eminent domain),



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- ability to coordinate with other adjacent entities,
- legal or legislative challenges,
- interlocal agreements,
- joint powers authority, and
- additions to existing entities.

Travis – We would like to look at how funding is broken down in comparison to current funding sources and understand staffing levels. Can a regional governance structure make the funding breakdown and staffing more efficient?

Scott – We will look at peers outside Arizona for 5311/5310 funding programs and understand the following agency attributes,

- Efficiencies and economies of scale
- Marketing and service planning

Jill – We may have challenge collecting information from Vista Transit due to change of staff. YCIPTA is primarily 5307 but do receive funding from 5311 program as well and have partnership with the county and tribes. NAIPTA has limited 5311 funds (vanpools). Arizona does not have standalone transit agencies, two non-profits but no peer with regards to governance. City of Coolidge and City of Cottonwood have IGAs that might serve as peers.

Travis – Could Gila County create an RTA? Would it make sense to look at other RTAs as peer for governing body? Jill responded that she will need look at the state statutes. Only counties with population greater than 400,000 but less than 1 million can create an RTA.

Vamshi – Suggested to use peer agency lessons learned from the Pinal County Transit Governance Study.

6. 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.

AECOM (consultant) has started with the Peer Agency Review, and a list of peers will be circulated to the TWG members. The next steps for the Peer Agency Review includes scheduling and conducting interviews.

Phyllis will separately send out the updated transit service sections to the appropriate agency for review.

The next TWG meeting will be scheduled during the week of December 7th.