



Transportation Technical Advisory Committee

December 16, 2021 Meeting Minutes

DATE: December 16, 2021
TIME: 10:00 a.m.
LOCATION: Via ZOOM Webinar

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Larry Halberstadt - *Chair*
(Payson)

Rick Powers
(Globe)

Lana Clark
(Superior)

Sharon Jakubowski Wolz
(Kearny)

Nina Arredondo
(Pinal County)

Barney Bigman
(San Carlos Apache Tribe)

Micah Gaudet
(Miami)

Jason James
(ADOT - MPD)

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Tim Grier
(Star Valley)

Sandra Shade
(Ak-Chin Indian Community)

VACANT
(Hayden)

Tara Chief
(White Mountain Apache Tribe)

John Schempf
(Mammoth)

Sylvia Kerlock
(Winkelman)

Scott Warren
(Gila County)

GUESTS PRESENT:

Jeff Minefee
(ADOT Southeast District)

Mark Henige
(ADOT LPA)

Jennifer Hobert
(ADOT LPA)

Jay Van Echo
(Casa Grande)

CAG Staff:

Travis Ashbaugh
(Transportation Planning Manager)

I. Call to Order

Chair Halberstadt called the meeting to order at 10:04 AM.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Halberstadt led the Committee in the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. Roll Call

Roll call was taken. Eight (8) 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 – (November 18, 2021)

Chair Halberstadt asked if corrections to the draft minutes were in order. No corrections were needed.

Mr. Powers made the motion to approve the November 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

Payson

Chair Halberstadt reported on one (1) item:

1. A TIP amendment will be requested for the “**Granite Dells Road**” project (**Project # PAY 19-01D & PAY 21-01C**) to move funds from Design to Construction.

San Carlos Apache Tribe

Mr. Bigman reported on one (1) item:

1. The Kick-off meeting for Design on the “**White Mountain Road (BIA 10) & Airport Road – Street Light Project**” project (**Project # SCA 21-01D**) was held on December 1, 2021 and a progress meeting was held on December 9, 2021.

No other agencies present had updates.

B. Multi-Modal Planning Division, ADOT

Mr. James reported on three (3) items:

1. The ADOT Freight Advisory Committee met on December 7, 2021. The meeting primarily focused on the highway freight system redesignation (ADOT has already commented on and sent to FHWA), freight commodity flow forecasts updates, and the draft Arizona State Plan Vision and Goals. A copy of the presentation can be viewed on the ADOT Freight website. The next ADOT Freight Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled in the Spring of 2022.
2. TAC meeting number three for the Highway Rail Freight Crossing Action Plan took place on December 9, 2021. The primary discussion centered around how the general public/stakeholder input could help ADOT in promoting safety at existing railroad crossings throughout Arizona. Other areas of discussion involved data collection, analysis, results, input already received, and locations and types of proposed improvements. The next Highway Rail Freight Crossing Action Plan TAC meeting is tentatively scheduled for early January 2022.
3. A reminder that all traffic counting data conducted for 2021 is due to be uploaded to the MS2 website by February 1, 2022, and to utilize the AZGEO tool through ADOT to provide input on the Certified Public Mileage.

C. Local Public Agency, ADOT

Mr. Henige reported on three (3) items:

1. The training for the LPA Federal Aid process has been completed for Calendar Year 2021. A new set of LPA trainings will begin in May 2022.
2. The “Call-for-Projects” for FY23 “Off-System Bridge” funds was announced in November 2021. Applications are expected to be due late February 2022 with an anticipated available amount of \$3.9 million (\$1 million max per eligible project). Projects must be submitted through CAG.
3. A Federal Delivery Academy (formerly known as the “Every Day Counts”) meeting was held on December 9, 2021 and focused on the benefits of Pre-Scoping and Statement of Interest (SOI). Discussion specifically spoke on Geotech Investigations for rumble strip projects as a local agency in attendance did not agree with the process and wanted to use local standards. The conclusion was that local standards can be used if the project is on a non-National Highway System (NHS) facility as long as they meet the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (ASHTO) requirements.

D. District, Engineers, ADOT

Mr. Minefee from the Southeast District reported on two (2) items:

1. An emergency flood repair project has started on SR-288 to fix the slope/banks along the roadway.
2. Granite Construction expected to begin replacing the guardrails on SR-77 and SR-177 that were damaged due to the Telegraph/Mescal fires, in early January 2022.

E. CAG Transportation Planning Update

Mr. Ashbaugh reported on two (2) items:

1. Advertising for the “Mobility Management Coordinator” position continues.
2. CAG will be entering in the final year of the current contract with All Traffic Data (formerly known as Traffic Research and Analysis) to conduct the seventeen (17) “Growth Counts.” The counts will be conducted between January 2022 and March 2022. If there is a need for traffic counts in addition to the “Growth Counts,” make the request known within the next few weeks to see if there is the budget to do so.

VIII. Old Business

Transportation Improvement Program

Mr. Ashbaugh stated there are two TIP Amendments being requested. The first request is from the City of Globe confirming that the Design and Construction of “**Hill Street (Mill & Fill / Sidewalk Replacement) project (Project # GLB 27-01D & GLB 29-01C)**” can be removed from the TIP. The funds would then be released for reprogramming for a future Call-for-Projects.

Ms. Clark made the motion to remove the Design and Construction of “**Hill Street (Mill & Fill / Sidewalk Replacement) project (Project # GLB 27-01D & GLB 29-01C)**” from the TIP, with the funds to be reprogrammed for another project at a later time. Chair Halberstadt seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The second request is from the Town of Payson regarding the “**Granite Dells Road**” HURF Exchange project (**Project # PAY 19-01D & PAY 21-01C**). The Town is requesting to deprogram \$100,000 from Design and reprogram the funds for Construction. Chair Halberstadt stated that the Town originally requested \$180,000 for design and Right-of-Way (ROW) acquisition, however only \$80,000 was needed due to less ROW needs.



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Mr. Ashbaugh stated from a TIP perspective, the changes will be seen quickly, however, the credit that is expected to show up on the CAG TIP Ledger will take some time before the funds are available and reprogrammed officially. The credited funds would be for the \$100,000 plus the ten percent HURF exchange rate (\$11,111.11), that would ultimately be taken back out once reprogrammed for Construction. The intent is to have this official by the end of June 2022 at the latest. Ms. Hobert confirmed that technically the Design phase would have to be completely closed out before the funds for the transfer would be available on the Ledger.

Mr. Powers made the motion to transfer \$100,000 of Design funds from the “**Granite Dells Road**” HURF Exchange project (**Project # PAY 19-01D**) to the Construction phase (**Project # PAY 21-01C**). Ms. Arredondo seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Ashbaugh also reminded the Committee that if they are going to initiate a TIP project, to have the IGA with ADOT include language stating that left over Design funds will automatically roll into the construction funding to avoid the TIP Amendment process for such changes.

Mr. Henige asked the local agencies that have FY23 Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) funded projects within the TIP, to begin the initiation process as soon as they can.

Mr. Bigman had questions regarding the San Carlos project scheduled for FY28/FY30 and inquired if anything that needed to be done right now. Mr. Ashbaugh stated that the project will need an initiation letter come FY28 to start the Design process, however nothing is needed in the present. Mr. Ashbaugh also stated that because the “**Hill Street (Mill & Fill / Sidewalk Replacement)**” project is being removed, it provides the opportunity for projects with the later years of the TIP to be advanced. He stated this has historically been the process before requesting new projects for programming.

Mr. Powers then asked if the Committee was still considering abandoning the 10-year TIP and going back to a 5-year TIP. He stated that a 10-year TIP is so far out to where City/Town Council members, managers, and engineers has change, and have unpredictable cost escalations. He suggested that maybe the Committee holds off on doing a Call-for-Projects for a while to catch up what’s currently on the TIP and shift towards a 5-year TIP again.

Mr. Ashbaugh stated that he has suggested to the Committee to go back to a 5-year TIP over the last three years but ultimately the Committee has chosen to maintain the status quo. He suggested that the Committee get through the process of revising the STBGP application/process before making the decision of going from a 10-year TIP back to a 5-year TIP. There was a consensus to wait until the process was completed.

Mr. Ashbaugh also reminded that any agency planning on applying for the Off-System Bridge to send in the applications by February 3, 2022 for the Committee to prioritize applications.

IX. New Business

A. CAG/SCMPO 2022 Human Services Transportation Coordination Plan

Mr. Ashbaugh stated that the CAG/SCMPO Human Services Transportation Coordination Plan is updated annually and that this update is for FY22. He stated that the plan includes updated information provided by the Census’ 5-year American Community Survey within the tables, as well as the updated funding requests of 5310 providers for Year Two, from the last 5310 two-year grant cycle.

Mr. Powers made a motion to recommend approval of the CAG/SCMPO 2022 Human Services Transportation Coordination Plan. Chair Halberstadt seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

B. 5310 Mobility Management 2-Year Grant Authorization to Apply

Mr. Ashbaugh stated that CAG, in partnership with the SCMPO, applies for 5310 funds every two years to fund a Mobility Management staff person for the region. He is expecting ADOT to make the announcement of the available funds in January 2022. He stated as part of the grant application, authorization must be given from the Regional Council before CAG can be considered for an award. Mr. Ashbaugh stated that for the last six years, CAG has been awarded funds to carry out the Mobility Management functions.

Ms. Jakubowski Wolz made a motion to approve the authorization to apply for funding through the 5310 Mobility Management 2-year grant. Mr. Gaudet seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

C. Off-System Bridge Presentation

Mr. Henige presented the Off-System Bridge (OSB) Program presentation. He provided background information and the historical context of the program. He stated that the program has set aside \$3.9 million for FY23, up to \$1 million per project. Eligible bridge project costs are funded at 94.3 percent Federal share with a 5.7 percent local match.

Mr. Henige stated that Design projects selected this round must be able to be authorized for Construction by FY25. He then stated the purpose of the OSB Program is to fund the Design and/or Construction for replacement or rehabilitation of roadway bridges over waterways, other topographical barriers, other roadways, railroads, canals, ferry landings, etc. on bridges that are *not* on the federal-aid highway system (local roads and rural minor collectors) when those bridges have been determined deficient because of structural deficiencies, physical deterioration, or functionally obsolete.

The PowerPoint presentation with the detailed information was sent out to the Committee after the meeting and is also available upon request.

D. STBGP Application – Revision/Process Discussions

Mr. Ashbaugh stated that during the last TTAC meeting, the Committee agreed to look over the current STBGP Application to provide comments, suggestions and/or feedback so that he could accumulate them all. Once summarized, he would determine if they could be handled within a future TTAC meeting or if a working group was needed to hammer out key areas. He stated that he has received no comments or suggestions to date.

Mr. Ashbaugh stated after having a discussion with Andrea Robles, the CAG Executive Director, the suggestion would be to move forward with a working group consisting of only four member agencies to hammer out suggestive changes, in which would be presented to the Committee later for a recommendation to the Regional Council. Mr. Ashbaugh suggested that two of the four agencies should be the Town of Superior, due to the concerns they have raised throughout the process, as well as the City of Globe, due to their success in the application process. He stated the other two agencies could be a combination of a small and large member agency to provide a balance. He stated that Gila County, being a large agency would fit the description as well as the Town of Miami as the other small Town. Mr. Gaudet suggest the Town of Kearny instead of the Town of Miami so that there is a balance between Gila and Pinal County agencies, with two agencies from each County.

Ms. Clark requested that a template be provided first before combing through what is liked and disliked by the Committee and that other STBGP applications should be evaluated from the other COGs/MPOs as part of that process. Ms. Arredondo asked why the existing STBGP application couldn't be the starting point for the new template. Mr. Ashbaugh stated that when the current application was agreed upon back in 2018, he had provided the Committee what the other COGs and MPOs did for their applications and doubts there have been any changes. He also reiterated that back in 2018, the Committee agreed to go through the application a few times to then reevaluate what worked and what didn't.

Mr. Gaudet made a motion to form a four-agency working group to present a minimum of two STBGP Application/Process options to present before the TTAC in a future meeting. Ms. Arredondo seconded the motion. After further discussion, Mr. Gaudet made a motion to amend the motion to include the Town of Superior, the Town of Kearny, the City of Globe, and Gila County as the four agencies of the working group. Ms. Arredondo seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

E. Round Table

No round table discussions were made.

F. Future Agenda Items

Mr. Ashbaugh stated there are only a few items for the next meeting and should be a rather quick meeting. He stated that the annual Title VI Training presentation is provided every January and election of Chair and Vice Chair is done in January as well.

X. Scheduling of Next Meetings

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for January 13, 2022. Mr. Ashbaugh stated that the meetings will be conducted virtually until the Committee decides they want to meet in person. He suggested that perhaps the Committee could meet in person at least once or twice a year but will meeting virtually primarily. The consensus was that virtual meetings work well and like the idea of an in-person meeting at least once or twice a year.

XI. Adjournment

Chair Halberstadt adjourned the meeting at 11:35 AM.