



Transportation Technical Advisory Committee

June 17, 2021 Meeting Minutes

DATE: June 17, 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)

Lana Clark
(Superior)

Micah Gaudet
(Miami)

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)

Barney Bigman
(San Carlos Apache Tribe)

GUESTS PRESENT:

Thomas Goodman
(Gila County)

Jennifer Henderson
(ADOT LPA)

Kurt Harris
(ADOT Southeast District)

CAG Staff:

Andrea Robles
(Executive Director)

Yvonne Tackett
(Finance Manager)

Travis Ashbaugh
(Transportation Planning Manager)

I. Call to Order

Chair Halberstadt called the meeting to order at 10:00 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 – (May 13, 2021)

Chair Halberstadt asked if corrections to the draft minutes were in order. Mr. Warren stated on page 3 under Agenda Item VII-C(1), "Manuel" should be "Manual." Mr. Ashbaugh stated he received an email from Mr. James

that James Minefee would need to be added to the “Guest Present” and to correct the spelling of Mr. Minefee’s name on page three under Agenda Item VII-D.

Mr. Warren made the motion to approve the May 13, 2021 minutes as amended. Mr. Powers 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 two (2) items:

1. The Temporary Construction Easements (TCEs) for the “**Golden Hill Road**” sidewalk project (**Project # GIL 18-01D / TRACTS # T009001D**) are still being aggressively pursued. Two of the five TCEs have been secured at this point. There is a critical deadline next week to get the remaining TCEs. Utility clearances are also needed.
2. The Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) is now in place for the “**Tonto Creek Bridge & Roadway Improvements – (FY22) – BUILD GRANT**” project (**Project # GIL 22-02C**) with the United States Department of Transportation (USDOT). ADOT is administering the project for Gila County. Ground clearing is expected to begin in March/April 2022.

Payson

Mr. Halberstadt reported on one (1) item:

1. The Town is continuing to work on the 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 “**Pinal Creek Bridge – Cottonwood Street (Structure #9711)**” project (**Project # GLB 21-01D**) is currently in fee negotiations for the Design with the consultant, Jacobs Engineering. The project is still on track to begin construction in 2022 and Design is expected to begin in July 2021.
2. Waiting for the State Budget process to be completed to determine if the funding request for the “**Hill Street**” – (**Mill & Fill/Sidewalk Replacement**) project (**Project # GLB 27-01D/29-01C**) will be approved. The project will remain on the TIP until further notice.

B. Multi-Modal Planning Division, ADOT

Mr. James reported on three (3) items:

1. The comment period on the **FY22-26 Tentative Five-Year Program** ended on June 3, 2021. The final approval of the Five-Year Program is scheduled for the June 18, 2021 Arizona State Transportation Board meeting. Highlights of the program include \$2.8 billion for highway projects in Greater Arizona, which includes \$1.8 billion in preservation projects and upgrading 581 lane miles from “poor” to “good” condition. There is also another \$407 million for highway safety, efficiency, and functionality and \$313 million for additional capacity. Specifically for the CAG Region, one of the primary projects listed is the

10-mile SR-260 pavement rehabilitation/life extension project from Forest Service Road (FSR) 159 to Old Rim Road. The project is scheduled to be constructed in FY22 for \$7.2 million. Another project listed is the US 60 Waterfall Canyon Bridge Rehabilitation project scheduled for construction in FY23 for \$3 million.

2. Reminder that the **Rebuilding American Infrastructure with Sustainability and Equity (RAISE)** grant application deadline is July 12, 2021. To register for the webinars, visit www.transportation.gov/RAISEgrants/outreach.
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.

Chair Halberstadt asked what the approach should be to apply for the HSIP application regarding an intersection with SR-260 and Manzanita Drive that appears it could use advance warning yellow flashing lights before approaching the traffic control signal. Mr. James recommended reaching out to the ADOT District Engineer (Audra Merrick – 928-774-1491) and would love to partner on such a project. He also stated that he would be in touch with the ADOT Traffic Safety section to determine if it is eligible based on the current accessible crash data.

Mr. Warren asked if the FY22-FY26 Five-Year Program included any identified funding for the SR-260 Lion Springs widening project. Mr. James stated that he believes there was additional funding added to the study portion, but nothing identified for construction. He stated that he would have to do some additional research to confirm.

C. Local Public Agency, ADOT

Ms. Henderson stated she had nothing new to report at this time.

D. District, Engineers, ADOT

Mr. Harris from the Southeast District had five (5) items to report:

1. The **“US 60 Pinto Creek Bridge – MP 237”** bridge replacement project did suffer slight damage to construction materials as a result of the Telegraph/Mescal fires that are ongoing. Although the project was suspended for a week due to the fires, the pouring of the bridge deck is still on schedule.
2. The SE District will now be focusing on post Telegraph/Mescal fire potential damages with Gila and Pinal Counties’ Emergency Management teams and Forest Services on the Burned Area Emergency Response (BAER) Report to come up with action plans.
3. The previous active projects between the Town of Superior and Top of the World have been completed, with many of the maintenance projects being suspended until further notice. However, chip seal projects on US 60 toward Salt River Canyon and US 70 will resume shortly.
4. The SE District was successful in obtaining funds for a pavement preservation project on US 60, slightly east of the Town of Miami for next fiscal year. The project is regards to a micro-seal/slurry seal near the cemetery.
5. The Design for the **“US 60 Queen Creek Bridge – MP 227.5”** is still on schedule for FY23 and the District was successful in combining the project with the **“Waterfall Bridge”** project as well. By combining the projects, both projects can be managed by one contractor instead of two who would be competing at the same time within the same area.

Mr. Harris also stated that one area of discussion that gets understated after fires ravage through an area is educating the public on potential flooding that comes afterwards when storms roll through. He stated that the SE District is working in advance to deal with the post fire flooding, which typically causes more death and infrastructure damage than the fire itself according to FEMA statistics.

E. CAG Transportation Planning Update

Mr. Ashbaugh had three (3) items to report:

1. The Pinal County Transit Governance Study is complete. 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. AECOM is working on the Final Draft and plan to present the information to the study's Technical Working Group (TWG) in late July 2021. A Stakeholder Workshop will then follow in which identified key personnel from the local agencies and their elected councilmembers will be invited. This is an attempt to reduce the need to present the findings to each local agency separately, however, would still be available upon request.
3. The RTAC Project Priority List applications are due next week, however, due to the fires, a follow-up email will be sent out after the meeting to extend the deadline.

VIII. New Business

A. Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

Ms. Tackett introduced herself as the Finance Manager for CAG and provided background information on CAG's funding levels and sources from ADOT historically received to implement a work program. She explained that historically ADOT provided \$125,000 annually to implement the CAG ADOT Work Program for over several years but never adjusted for inflation or cost of doing business. She explained that starting in FY18 CAG had requested and was approved for \$155,000 annually to cover said additional costs. However, in May 2021, as CAG was wrapping up for the FY22 budget, CAG was informed that ADOT would be rolling back to the historical \$125,000 amount, amounting to a \$30,000 funding cut. Upon the disappointing news and attempting to adjust the overall budget, CAG was also notified by ADOT Transit regarding Preliminary Award Notices for the Mobility Management program. Within the notice, CAG viewed the outcome as additional funding cuts when compared to historical levels by another \$25,000, a now total of a \$55,000 funding cut when compared to previous years.

Ms. Tackett stated that she recognizes that funding credits come back from previous local agency projects and are placed back on the TIP's ledger for reprogramming. She stated that Mr. Ashbaugh has been a strong advocate in reprogramming credited funds towards current projects that need additional funding. Recently, a credit amount of \$30,497.13 was identified in the ledger. Ms. Tackett respectfully asked the Committee to consider allocating the credit to be used to supplement CAG's budget and fill the gap of the recent and described budget cuts handed down from ADOT.

Ms. Robles stated that she met with Directors from the rural Council of Governments (COGs) within the state. The Directors met to discuss steps they were going to take to alleviate the ADOT budget cuts. The solution that many of the COGs concluded to was to seek STBGP funding from their regional TIPs. Ms. Robles stated that due to the late notice, this is the only solution for CAG and this is why the request is being made in today's meeting. She also stated that she has reached out to the elected officials and the CAG Regional Council Chair, Mayor Jon Thompson with the City of Coolidge, regarding the recent events. They have discussed sending a letter to ADOT to express their concerns that involves, the late notification of such funding cuts so late into

the budget process, as well as concerns if there will be other future budget cuts that supports the CAG Transportation department. There is great concern amongst the elected officials if this will be a challenge that CAG will have to face every year. Ms. Robles stated there will be an Executive Committee meeting with the committee officers of the Regional Council within the next few weeks to talk about these concerns more in depth.

Mr. Warren made the motion to recommend approval of supplementing the CAG ADOT Work Program for FY22 in the amount of \$30,497.13. Mr. Powers seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

B. Round Table

Although Mr. Goodman had to leave the meeting earlier to deal with the current wildfires, Mr. Warren introduced him as the newly hired Gila County Engineer. He stated that he will be a great asset and will be the alternate representative for Gila County on the CAG TTAC.

C. Future Agenda Items

Mr. Ashbaugh stated that he has no particular agenda items, outside of the standing items to report on, for the July 8, 2021 meeting. He explained that he was originally going to announce the Call-for-Projects regarding the latter years of the CAG TIP, but decided to postpone until the August 12, 2021 meeting due to the ongoing RTAC Call-for-Projects process. Therefore, Mr. Ashbaugh is expecting to cancel the July 8th, 2021 meeting, but will notice if the decision to do so is made.

Mr. Powers suggest having Mr. Harris and the Emergency Management team to do a debriefing on the current fires with regards to the impacts on transportation to reiterate the dangers and potential flooding from future storms.

IX. Scheduling of Next Meetings

Mr. Ashbaugh stated the next scheduled meeting is for July 8, 2021, with the potential of it being canceled. He stated that the August 12, 2021 will be in person, but will still have a virtual option.

X. Adjournment

Chair Halberstadt adjourned the meeting at 10:51 AM.