



Transportation Technical Advisory Committee

May 12, 2022 Meeting Minutes

DATE: May 12, 2022
TIME: 10:00 a.m.
LOCATION: Via ZOOM Webinar

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Larry Halberstadt - *Chair*
(Payson)

Nina Arredondo
(Pinal County)

Lana Clark
(Superior)

Sylvia Kerlock
(Winkelman)

Will Randolph
(ADOT - MPD)

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Tim Grier
(Star Valley)

Sandra Shade
(Ak-Chin Indian Community)

VACANT
(Hayden)

Tara Chief
(White Mountain Apache Tribe)

Rick Powers
(Globe)

Amanda Kenney
(Kearny)

John Schempf
(Mammoth)

Thomas Goodman
(Gila County)

Barney Bigman
(San Carlos Apache Tribe)

Micah Gaudet
(Miami)

GUESTS PRESENT:

Jeff Minefee
(ADOT SE District)

Rebecca Mayher
(ADOT LTAP)

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. Five (5) 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 read a statement of where and how to file a complaint regarding Title VI violations.

V. Approval Of Minutes – (April 21, 2022)

Ms. Arredondo made the motion to approve the April 21, 2022 minutes as presented. Ms. Kerlock 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. Ashbaugh reported on one (1) item on behalf of Gila County:

1. The “Golden Hill Road” construction (**Project # GIL 22-01C**) and the “Main Street” construction (**Project # GIL 09-01T**) may need to be amended pending a solution from a previous meeting held with ADOT staff, Gila County staff, and CAG staff. There may be a slight possibility that an emergency TIP Amendment may need to be made to move the funds to next fiscal year.

Payson

Chair Halberstadt reported on one (1) item:

1. Town staff is continuing to complete the design plans for the “Granite Dells Road” project (**Project # PAY 19-01D**).

No other agencies present had updates.

B. Multi-Modal Planning Division, ADOT

Mr. Randolph reported on eight (8) items:

1. **ADOT FY23-FY27 Tentative Five-Year Transportation Facilities Construction Program:** ADOT has released its tentative FY23-FY27 Five-Year Transportation Facilities Construction Program for public review and comment that started on March 17, 2022 with the comment period ending June 2, 2022. The State Transportation Board will consider formal action on the Five-Year Program at its June 17, 2022 board meeting. The Tentative FY23-FY27 Five-Year Transportation Facilities Construction Program can be viewed at <https://azdot.gov/planning/transportation-programming/tentative-five-year-rogram>

The public can provide comments on the tentative Five-Year Program in the following ways:

- Attend the virtual public hearings of the State Transportation Board on May 20, 2022 at 9:00 AM. Meeting information can be found at <http://aztransportationboard.gov>.
- Complete an online comment form at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ADOTFiveYearSurvey>.
- Email: fiveyearconstructionprogram@azdot.gov.
- Call the bilingual phone line at 1-855-712-8530
- Mail ADOT at: Attn: Courtney King, c/o ADOT Communications, 1655 W. Jackson, Room 179, MD 126F, Phoenix, AZ 85007

2. **The HSIP Call for Projects for FY25-FY26 Program Years:** The Call was released on February 28, 2022. There are changes in this year’s application process. One is the mandatory review of all applications prior to final submission. The review is required for the final application to be accepted.
 - Draft applications are due for review May 31, 2022.
 - TSS/LPA/PMG consolidated comments sent to applicants June 30, 2022
 - Final applications due to ADOT TSS on August 2, 2022.
3. **If pursuing MEGA, INFRA, Rural, or the National Scenic Byways Program (NSBP):** Please visit www.azdot.gov/grant for guidance on any grant support. If a local agency requests a letter of support,

they need to submit the online form with 30-day's notice and coordinate grant applications with local interests as ADOT is working on its own applications.

- MEGA, INFRA, and RURAL are due May 23, 2022
- NSBP deadline has been extended until June 20, 2022

4. **Annual FHWA Title VI Training:** Please save the date for the ADOT Civil Rights Office's Annual FHWA Title VI Training.

- Participation in person: Training will be held on Wednesday, June 1, 2022 from 8:00 am to 12:00 pm at the Human Resources Development Center (HRDC): 1130 North 22nd Ave, Phoenix, AZ 85009
- Participate Virtually: A virtual session will be held on Thursday, June 2, 2022 from 1:00 pm to 5:00 pm. The meeting link is currently being developed and further details will be sent in the next coming weeks.
- Attendance is mandatory for all Title VI coordinators. However, it is only required to attend one of the two sessions. Coordinators are encouraged to invite all those within their agency that support in fulfilling the agency's Title VI responsibilities.

5. **Reconnecting Communities Pilot (RCP) Discretionary Grant Program:** The U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) will be hosting a webinar for potential applicants on Thursday, May 19, 2022 from 1:30 pm to 2:30 pm EDT. Registration information will be provided to CAG for distribution.

6. **Long Rang Transportation Plan:** The Notice to Proceed for the selected consultant is anticipated for mid-to-late May 2022.

7. **Statewide Rest Area Study:** Data collection efforts are almost complete, only the additional traffic counts remain. Our team is working with the Traffic Monitoring Group to potentially conduct the additional traffic counts in house. The Draft Working Paper for Task 2 was submitted for TAC review and comment. Task 3: Forecasting Future Conditions and Identifying Deficiencies can begin while the last of the data collection effort is conducted.

8. **Electric Vehicle Infrastructure Plan:** ADOT staff is currently finalizing a stakeholder list. Internal meetings are taking place and the consultant has been selected. A potential stakeholder meeting is expected to occur in June 2022.

C. Local Public Agency, ADOT

No updates were provided.

D. District, Engineers, ADOT

Mr. Minefee from the Southeast District reported on eleven (11) items:

1. **Tonto Creek Bridge (Project # GIL 22-02C / TRACTS # SS718):** Advertised on April 29, 2022.
2. **Golden Hill/Main Street Sidewalks (Project # GIL 22-01C / GIL 09-01T / TRACTS # T0090):** Set to advertise on June 24, 2022.
3. **El Camino Viejo Queen Creek Bridge Replacement (TRACTS # T0254):** Set to advertise on August 19, 2022.
4. **Pinal Creek Bridge Replacement (TRACTS # T0281):** Has been moved to FY24 due to funding.

5. **US 60 Queen Creek Bridge Replacement (TRACTS # H8566):** Currently in Stage III Design and is set to advertise in early 2023.
6. **Waterfall Canyon Bridge (TRACTS # F0315):** Currently in Design and set to advertise in 2023. This project is expected to coincide with the Queen Creek Bridge to have less of an impact to the traveling public.
7. **US 60 Sand Tanks Wash Bridge Scour/Overlay (TRACTS # F0386):** Set to advertise on July 22, 2022.
8. **US 60 Copper Springs to Miami Cape Seal (TRACTS # F0418):** Advertised on March 30, 2022.
9. **US 60 Pavement Life Extension Mill & Friction Course Replacement (TRACTS # F0452):** Set to advertise on May 30, 2022.
10. **US 60 Radonovich to Cherry Ave (TRACTS # F0352):** HSIP lighting project that was advertised on April 25, 2022.
11. **SR 88, AZ Federal Land Access Project (FLAP):** The all-weather surface project from Roosevelt Dam to Apache Lake Marina is beginning to pick up speed and will be administered by the Central Federal Lands (CFL).

E. CAG Transportation Planning Update

Mr. Ashbaugh reported on three (3) items:

1. **CAG FY23-FY27 Traffic Count Program:** Continuing to develop the list of traffic count locations in preparation for the Request for Proposal (RFP) that will be advertised late summer 2022. Originally, it was believed that there was only going to be approximately 400 segments that CAG was responsible and required to count. However, after the ADOT presentations that were provided in the previous CAG TTAC meeting, a review began to seek other possible segments that appear to have not made the original list. Some on the list were identified to be outside the responsibility of CAG, such as state facilities, but it is estimated that an additional 50-75 counts may be added to the overall list. The current budget within the TIP should be able to absorb the additional counts. Other local agencies may also request additional traffic count locations to be added to the overall list to be included with the six-year cycle.
2. **HB2396 regarding the Rural Transportation Advocacy Council (RTAC) Projects:** In August 2022, CAG prioritized projects that was introduced in the current Legislative Session. As of today, those projects appear to still be alive for consideration. As stated in previous meetings, the Appropriations Committee Chair did not support the bill due to the large number of local projects as she only wanted to support state facility projects. However, Senate President Senator Karen Fann's interest appears to be with keeping the original bill due to the much lower price tag and the ideas behind it. The final outcome is not expected to be known until the end of June 2022.
3. **Arizona Rural Transportation Summit:** CAG/Sun Corridor MPO is once again hosting the AZRTS on September 14-15, 2022 at Harrah's Ak-Chin Casino. The previous year the Summit was held to 100-150 attendees and was by invitation only. However, it appears that many individuals are starting to return back to conferences at more normal levels pre pandemic. This year's Summit is expected to keep a cap on attendance but at a higher number, approximately 250-300 individuals. Members of the COGs' and MPOs' technical advisory committees will be included in this year's invitation to the summit.

VIII. New Business

A. LTAP Funding Allocation in TIP

Mr. Ashbaugh introduced Ms. Mayher with ADOT to provide a background of what the Local Technical Assistance Program (LTAP) is about. He also stated that he had invited her to provide this information so that the Committee is well informed before making a possible decision in continuing the funding levels currently listed within the CAG TIP or if there should be some form of adjustments based on incoming information regarding the TIP that may trigger numerous adjustments.

Ms. Mayher made a presentation on how the program is structured and funded. She stated that member agencies who belong to a COG or MPO who contributes funds towards the program can attend trainings for free. She provided a high level of information of the popular courses offered through the program and provided regional stats for the CAG Region (166 participants within 19 courses in 2021). The participation could also be broken down by each agency and can be requested if necessary.

Chair Halberstadt stated that the Town of Payson does use the program regularly. Mr. Ashbaugh stated that he understands that Pinal County uses it heavily as well as Gila County staff.

B. Transportation Improvement Program Amendment(s)

Mr. Ashbaugh extended the conversation from the previous agenda item into the discussion of the TIP agenda item as they relate to one another. He stated that changes in the TIP allocation have already taken affect due to the appropriated funding levels handed down through Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) that resulted in a loss of \$766 a year. He stated that doesn't sound like much but since the CAG TIP is programmed for every penny, this will cause an unbalanced TIP and will require some readjustments. Mr. Ashbaugh also stated that ADOT has informed the COGs/MPOs that the "Obligated Authority" percentage will increase, which in return will lower the available allocated amount of STBGP funds. ADOT is still working on a schedule of what that will look like, but these adjustments will need to be made as well.

Mr. Ashbaugh also stated that CAG's allocation may decrease again once the results of the 2020 Census are applied within the ADOT population-based formulas. The CAG Transportation Planning Boundary in which the allocation is based on is very rural and not growing as other parts of the State.

Mr. Ashbaugh proposed the question whether if the Committee wanted to consider looking at the LTAP funding levels to see if that could be used to fill the expected funding shortfalls coming our way. Chair Halberstadt stated that it does appear that the LTAP is being utilized well by our region. Ms. Arredondo also stated that she would not like to see the funding reduced since Pinal County does use it heavily to train their staff. She asked if there was a formula of how the LTAP funds are used by agency participation. Mr. Ashbaugh responded that he understands it is a first come first served basis and that previous conversations with Ms. Mayher indicated that CAG benefits more than what we have contributed. He stated that he is hesitant even considering reducing the amount due to the benefits outweighing the costs.

After much discussion, a consensus was to keep the current level of \$10,000 of STBGP funds from the CAG TIP for the LTAP program.

Mr. Ashbaugh also brought up that the cost estimates of the projects currently in the TIP may need to be reevaluated. He stated it needs to be determined if those costs match the reality of what is occurring, and he

suspects that they don't. By reevaluating the costs, those who have projects may reconsider having it within the TIP altogether.

C. STBGP Application – Revision/Process Proposal

Chair Halberstadt stated that this item was discussed in detail in the previous meeting and will not be discussed in detail any further than necessary. He stated that the item was tabled to allow more members to have the opportunity to be present for the vote. Discussions regarding the application occurred. Mr. Ashbaugh asked if the memo that was provided with the application, laying out the process and guidelines, be memorialized within the actual application and be brought back to the Committee in July 2022. All agreed that since there was no rush to have this approved, that would be ideal. No action took place as a result of this conversation.

D. Round Table

No discussion took place.

E. Future Agenda Items

Mr. Ashbaugh stated the current items for the next meeting in July would include memorializing the memo of the process and guidelines for the STBGP application, into the application, and possible TIP amendments, pending the Obligatory Authority adjusted amounts.

IX. Scheduling of Next Meetings

Chair Halberstadt stated the next scheduled meeting is for July 14, 2022. The suggestion was to have the next meeting as an in-person meeting if possible, as there was the intention to have at least one within the year. He also stated that there will be no June 2022 meeting.

X. Adjournment

Chair Halberstadt adjourned the meeting at 11:21 AM.