

Technical Subcommittee Meeting ♦ December 6, 2017

NACOG AAA Offices, Flagstaff, AZ

MEMBER NAME	ENTITY	PRESENT	ABSENT	STAFF NAME
Margie RS Begay	Navajo Nation		X	Jason Kelly
Bill Bess	Navajo County		X	Jason James
Terry Cooper	Town of Snowflake		X	Jennifer O'Connor (phone)
Kyle Dabney	Town of Jerome	X		Cindy Binkley
Tim Dalegowski	Coconino County	Phone		
Andy Dickey	City of Sedona	X		
Art Durazo	Town of Clarkdale		X	GUEST NAME
Dan Gabiou	ADOT MPD	X		ENTITY
Shane Hemesath	City of Show Low	X		Kevin Adam
Michael Lomayaktewa	Hopi Tribe		X	Mary French-Jones
Ron Long	Town of Camp Verde		X	Dana Biscan
Gus Lundberg	Town of Taylor		X	Amy Wyman
Roland Maldonado	Kaibab Paiute Tribe		X	Stephen Craver
Roger McCormick	Yavapai County		X	Kate Morley
Matthew Patterson	Town of Pinetop-Lakeside		X	Bryan Cook
Paul Ramsey	City of St. Johns	X		Miles Begay
Tim Rasmussen	Town of Springerville		X	Lisa Robertson
Bruce Ray	Town of Eagar	phone		Chris Steele
Morgan Scott	City of Cottonwood	phone		Caleb Lanting
Randy Sullivan	City of Holbrook		X	
David Swietanski	Apache County	X		
Matthew Wood	City of Page		X	
Mark Woodson	City of Winslow/Town of Tusayan/City of Williams	X		
	Town of Fredonia			

I. Introductions

Chairman Shane Hemesath called the meeting to order at 10:00 A.M. Self-introductions were made. A quorum was present.

II. Approval of October 2017 Minutes

Vice Chairman Hemesath asked for any corrections to the October 3, 2017 meeting minutes. Hearing none, he asked for a motion to approve.

Dave Swietanski moved to approve the October 3, 2017 meeting minutes as presented, seconded by Dan Gabiou. Motion passed unanimously.

III. Call to the Audience

There were no comments from the audience.

IV. Federal & State Updates

A. Federal & State Legislative Update

Highway Trust Fund programs are somewhat insulated from the unpredictability in Washington, as long as there are adequate revenues in the HTF to remain solvent. Program funding should continue at fully authorized levels. The current continuing resolution for the federal budget expires on 12/8. It is anticipated that a short-term extension will be enacted to carry over until the new Congress is seated in January.

The federal infrastructure package is still a work in progress. It is anticipated that it will be in the amount of \$1 trillion, consisting of \$200 billion in new direct federal funding used to incentivize \$800 million in other investments. There has been a potential change in direction; the President has indicated that there are issues with P3s, which was one of the focal points of his initial proposal. This could mean additional emphasis is put on local and state funding. The President has also indicated that a 7-cent federal gas tax could be enacted as a funding source for the \$200 billion federal portion of the package.

At the state level, the budget outlook is not great. The economy continues to improve, but corporate income tax cuts currently phasing in have made a dent in revenue growth for the state budget. Without revenue growth, it will be hard to reduce the Legislature's reliance on HURF diversions. There is potential for legislation to be introduced in the shape of a VLT fee. The amount would be targeted to equal DPS operations of approximately \$130 million annually. If this comes to pass, the HURF raids could be eliminated.

In addition, legislation is scheduled to be introduced to enact fees for alternative fuel vehicles. Target collection amounts would equal what a typical petroleum vehicle pays per year in tax revenue.

Other expected legislation could provide more capacity for regional/county level transportation sales taxes, increasing the threshold from ½ cent to full cent.

The deadline for comments on the draft ADOT Long Range Plan is December 21. Kevin Adam provided a handout of draft comments to be submitted, these comments will be finalized by the RTAC on Monday. The draft comments include a request to ADOT for the estimated amounts required to fully fund the three main categories of maintenance, modernization and expansion, as well as the impacts of funding shortfalls on each category.

B. Review of ADOT Long Range Transportation Plan

Dan Gabiou reported that the draft Long Range Transportation Plan is posted on the ADOT website. He noted that the main point of interest is the recommended investment for rural expansion has been eliminated, with those funds being dedicated to system preservation.

Anything that is already included in the 5-year construction program, ADOT management has committed to see through to completion. Anything in the 6-10 year tentative program is still under consideration, but is not guaranteed to move forward.

Arizona has not seen an increase to the level of its gasoline tax since 1991. Increased revenues are required for system expansion in greater Arizona. A voter initiative is required to raise the state gas tax. The MAG and PAG regions have passed initiatives for expansion in their respective areas.

C. Update on ADOT Application for Federal Grant Funding to Expand Interstate 17

ADOT has applied for \$300 million of INFRA funding to expand Interstate 17 between Anthem and Cordes Junction. MAG has programmed funding for the portion of that project that is located in Maricopa County. INFRA award announcements are expected at any time between December and March.

D. Update on ADOT Intelligent Transportation System Architecture Study

In August staff requested feedback from local government staff with regard to ITS needs. Data received has been submitted to the consultant working on ADOT's ITS study. The consultant is reviewing the data collected, and is developing a list of needs for the state.

ADOT will make the final determinations on project funding and prioritization.

E. HURF Exchange Policy Update

The HURF policy update is tentatively set to be released in January. The draft is in final review at the state level now. The rough draft was included with meeting packet for committee member reference.

Once the new policy is in effect, it will be important for project sponsors to get their IGA processes moving as soon as possible, as that can take 4-6 months to fully execute.

F. Review of ADOT Project Management Design Review (PMDR) Changes

There are a couple of changes to note with regard to design review. The process name has been changed to Project Development Administration. It is also of note that design reviews will no longer be completed in-house by ADOT staff. Reviews will be outsourced to a team of consultants located in the Phoenix area. In addition, the reviews that are done by the consultants will be for compliance, rather than the quality reviews that were done in the past.

This only applies to Federal-aid projects, not HURF Exchange projects.

ADOT staff will make a more comprehensive presentation on this subject at a future TSC meeting.

G. Update on ADOT Environmental Planning Authority to Approve Categorical Exclusions-Level NEPA Documents on Behalf of FHWA

This update will take place in two phases. The first phase will affect simple categorical exclusion projects. The majority of LPA projects fall under this category. The MOU for the first phase went out on the federal register for public comment, which closed in November. ADOT expects approval from FHWA by the end of December. The end result is that the NEPA process for Federal-aid projects will be streamlined.

Phase two of the process will give ADOT the authority to approve Individual CEs. Eventually, ADOT will administer NEPA in-house.

H. Other

There were no other federal and state items presented.

V. Transportation Investment Plan (TIP)

A. Review High Priority Project Development Schedules

City of St. Johns- 24th West Overlay: The local funding portion has been submitted to ADOT. The project is set to advertise at the first of the year.

Yavapai County- Paulden widening SR 89: County staff is working on the IGA. ADOT is at Stage V plans. The project is on schedule for spring/summer construction.

Yavapai County/ City of Sedona- Boynton/Dry Creek Road Overlay: The project is currently at 95% plans. Project sponsors anticipate that the project will go advertise in time for spring construction. They will initiate the IGA as soon as the HURF policy is finalized.

Town of Clarkdale: They will initiate the IGA and get design moving as soon as the HURF policy is finalized.

City of Page: Stage V plans are complete. ADOT has requested that the City submit its portion of the project funding.

Jason Kelly reported that the Transportation Alternatives Program has been rescinded. TAP funding has been diverted to cover financial shortfalls. This will not affect existing projects that are underway. Those will be completed.

B. Update on Regional Fund Balances and Management Strategies

The net regional fund balance for FYs 18 and 19 is approximately \$150,000. Jason James asked FY 18 project sponsors to notify staff as soon as possible if additional funding needed for a project. Any fund balance that remains in February will be loaned to another region.

For FY20 and beyond, current fund balances are significantly higher. Staff will continue to work with the sub-regions on a list of recommended projects and needs to use FY20 money. The Town of Taylor and the City of Cottonwood both need to program their rotational projects for FY20.

Staff will reach out to members individually prior to the February sub-regional meetings to ensure everyone is on the same page.

Jason Kelly reported that a new line item has been added to the TIP. For the last five years, NACOG has used SPR funding for program operations. SPR funds were added to the TIP last June so the amount would be documented in the region's fund balances. SPR funds are running out, and NACOG will need new resources to fund COG operations at the current level. STBG is a potential resource and has been marked with an annual \$50,000 placeholder/earmark in the TIP for COG planning operations. This amount has been deducted from the region's fund balance. NACOG staff is in communication with ADOT and has requested an increase to NACOG's SPR funding for FY19. If additional SPR funds are infused to our account, the STBG funds would be released back to projects.

C. Review and Possible Action to Approve FY18-23 TIP Amendment 3

Jason James reported that TIP amendment 3 affects \$180,000 in left over HSIP funds from the Phase 2 sign panel replacement project. At prior meetings, staff has explained the situation to the TSC, and has explored several options for fund allocation due to the use or lose scenario.

The most viable option for using the funds is to add them to the Phase 3 sign panel replacement project, which includes the Navajo Nation and Hopi Tribe. This increase would allow for an additional 650 signs, increased design fees and construction/installation.

Mark Woodson moved to approve FY18-23 TIP Amendment 3 as presented, seconded by Caleb Lanting. Motion passed unanimously.

D. Other

There were no other TIP items presented.

VI. Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP)

A. Presentation by Burgess & Niple, Inc. Regarding the Status of Regional Strategic Safety Plan (RSTSP)

Dana Biscan reported that NACOG/CYMPO/FMPO Regional Strategic Safety Plan is approximately 75% complete. The project goal is to address safety from a holistic, regional perspective to reduce the risk of death and serious injury to all transportation users. The plan is intended to establish a framework identifying objectives, strategies and performance measures for transportation safety that are consistent with the Strategic Highway Safety Plan.

Burgess and Niple has developed several crash analysis tools to assist communities with their applications for HSIP funding. Dana explained the different user tools. She noted that these tools are data driven and will assist communities to pinpoint areas of interest for potential HSIP projects.

The draft plan will be submitted to ADOT in April. It will be finalized approximately 30 days later. The cache of crash analysis tools will be finalized and ready for project sponsor use in January.

B. Status of Phase 3 Sign Panel Replacement Project Phases 2 & 3

Phase 2 of the Sign Panel Replacement involves the communities of Page, Holbrook, Taylor, Springerville, Eagar, St. Johns, and Williams: The contractor is wrapping up submittal of the final sign fabrication drawings to the subcontractor. Construction kickoff meetings will be scheduled soon. Installation should begin in March.

Phase 3 of the Sign Panel Replacement involves the Navajo Nation and the Hopi Tribe: This project is in design, nearing completion of 30% plans.

C. Other

There were no other HSIP items presented.

VII. Public Transportation Program

A. Update on Mobility Management Planner Recruitment & Coordinated Mobility Program

NACOG has hired Todd Morris as its new Mobility Management Planner. He will start on January 2. Mr. Morris will be in charge of the Coordinated Mobility Program, which entails the development of connections and opportunities among all transit programs in northern Arizona.

B. Status of FY18 FTA Section 5310 Grant Program

The FTA Section 5310 program provides enhanced mobility for seniors and individuals with disabilities. The application cycle will open in February and close in April/May. Jason requested that TSC members to begin to spread the word with their local agencies and stakeholders about the upcoming grant cycle.

C. Status of Regional Passenger Transportation Study

Jennifer O'Connor is the staff person that is overseeing the development of NACOG's Regional Passenger Transportation Study. The study is funded with Section 5304 money that NACOG was

awarded through a grant process by ADOT. The purpose of the study is to enable the region to develop a vision for moving forward.

Phase 1 of the study includes the collection of data related to public transportation in the NACOG region. The project consultant will assist with prioritizing corridors and scenarios for expanded transit services.

Phase 2 of the study will determine financial needs and propose recommendations for funding. It will also present a detailed picture of what future services could look like.

This study focuses on Apache, Coconino and Navajo Counties. The Yavapai County study was recently completed by CYMPO.

NACOG is in the process of selecting a consultant for the Regional Passenger Transportation Study. This selection process is nearing its close. The selection announcement is expected by December 20.

D. Other

There were no other public transportation program items presented.

VIII. Miscellaneous Reports

Kate Morley announced that NAIPTA's transit plan was adopted by the Flagstaff City Council last month and they are moving forward with intent to apply for Section 5311 funding to begin inter-city service and service within the City of Flagstaff.

Dan Gabiou reported that Kimley Horn has been selected as the consultant for Show Low sub-regional transportation plan. The Notice to Proceed should be released in the coming week.

A. Status of Regional Infrastructure Inventory & Prioritization Initiative

In anticipation of federal legislative measures, Congressman Tom O'Halleran has asked the regions in his district for a prioritized infrastructure inventory. NACOG staff in turn, held an initial round of meetings with its sub-regional partners back in September to begin discussions of potential projects and scoring criteria. The goal is to combine the sub-regional recommendations into a detailed region-level list of infrastructure priorities.

At the September meetings, the sub-regions discussed project priorities for transportation infrastructure. 64 projects were identified. A second round of meetings will be held in February. Meeting dates will be announced by staff in the next couple of weeks. Staff will follow up as needed for further information for discussion/inclusion.

Staff has developed a rough draft of the potential project scoring system. Jason James asked for four TSC members, one from each county, to serve on a committee to review the draft scoring system to see if it is meeting needs. Those present appointed Morgan Scott, Matt Patterson, Bruce Ray and Tim Dalegowski to serve on this committee. Jason James will contact those members in January.

B. Deadline to Register for 2020 Census Training for Local Address Updates (LUCA)

NACOG coordinates with State Demographer's office on data collection for population estimates.

The initial stages of the 2020 Census process are underway. December 15 is the deadline for training on LUCA, the local address update process. The purpose of LUCA is to ensure that local addresses are accurate. LUCA is the very first step of the Census process, and must be completed so questionnaire mailing can occur for data collection. The data collected in the questionnaires is used for the Census counts. Population numbers are integral in the distribution of funding for services.

C. Other

Jason Kelly reported that NACOG planning operations have tripled their costs over the last year to roughly \$1 million. To date, the match requirement has been met in the form of in-kind in lieu of cash. To maintain this level of activity, NACOG must record \$15,000/month of in-kind. If we aren't successful in collecting the required in-kind contributions, NACOG will be forced to put a hold on our expenses.

In-kind contributions are recorded/collected using an in-kind timecard maintained and distributed by Jason James. The time card document includes a list of eligible activities. Staff encouraged the committee members to continue their in-kind recording and submission with diligence.

IX. Important Meeting Dates, Deadlines

Jason Kelly announced the following dates and deadlines:

- A. December 7: Every Day Counts LPA Stakeholder Council Meeting (Phoenix)**
- B. December 14: Deadline to Register for Census 2020 LUCA Training**
- C. December 31: Deadline to Initiate FY18 Federal/HURF Funded Projects**
- D. February 2018: 2nd Round Discussions – Infrastructure Inventory & Prioritization Initiative**
- E. February 7, 2018: NACOG Transportation Technical Subcommittee (Flagstaff)**
- F. February 22: NACOG Regional Council (Flagstaff)**
- G. March 28-30, 2018: Arizona Conference on Roads & Streets (Tucson)**

X. Adjourn

Chairman Hemesath asked if there were any further items for discussion. Hearing none, he adjourned the meeting.

Chairman Shane Hemesath adjourned the December 6, 2017 meeting of the NACOG Technical Subcommittee at 11:45 A.M.