



ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

MGT-16.01 DEPARTMENT-WIDE NATIVE NATION/ TRIBAL GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION POLICY

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Supersedes: MGT-16.01 (07/08/2011)

Responsible Office: Director's Office (602) 712-7227

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1.01 PURPOSE

This policy establishes guidance for the Arizona Department of Transportation's (ADOT) relationship with Native Nations/Tribal Governments in the State of Arizona.

1.02 SCOPE

This policy is intended to guide ADOT personnel when interacting with the Native Nations/Tribal Governments in Arizona. To support the implementation of this policy, an online training course titled, ADOT Tribal Transportation Consultation Training and accompanying Handbook is available from the ADOT Learning Center Online Training page.

1.03 AUTHORITY

[A.R.S § 28-332\(A\)](#)

[Executive Order 13175](#)

[Executive Order 2006-14](#)

[United States Department of Transportation \(US DOT\) Order 5301.1](#)

[18 U.S.C. §1151](#)

1.04 BACKGROUND

The Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) is a multimodal transportation agency that is responsible for planning, building and operating the state highway system and the Grand Canyon Airport. Within the State, multimodal transportation systems cross numerous jurisdictional boundaries. In particular, approximately 1,237 centerline miles of the state highway system traverse Native Nation/Tribal lands along with 18 airports maintained by the Native Nations/Tribal Governments. There are 22 Native Nations/Tribal Governments that have jurisdiction over approximately 28% of the land base within Arizona. Thus, the State is committed to work together with the Native Nations/Tribal Governments for the common purpose of protecting the health, safety and welfare of the traveling public in Arizona through a continuously improving working relationship.

Furthermore, Executive Order 13175 (November 6, 2000 reaffirmed by President Barack Obama November 5, 2009), "Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments," the United States Department of Transportation (US DOT) Order 5301.1 (November 16, 1999), "Department of Transportation Programs, Policies and Procedures Affecting American Indians, Alaska Natives and Tribes" and the Arizona Governor's Executive Order 2006-14 (September 14, 2006), "Consultation and Cooperation with Arizona Tribes" all require state departments of transportation to consult, cooperate and coordinate with Native Nations/Tribal Governments in statewide and metropolitan transportation planning processes. This is in addition to addressing environmental, cultural, historic, natural and human resource issues during the implementation of transportation programs and construction projects impacting Native Nations/Tribal reservations and aboriginal lands within the State boundaries. Consequently, the State is committed to consult, cooperate and coordinate with the Native Nations/Tribal Governments on the implementation of their respective multi-modal transportation mission and goals.

1.05 DEFINITIONS

Airport Development Grant	A written agreement between parties allowing certain approved airport improvement costs to be reimbursed by ADOT at a given rate of participation.
Consultation	Meaningful and timely discussion in an understandable language with tribal governments during the development of regulations, policies, programs, plans or matters that significantly or uniquely affect federally recognized American Indian tribes and their governments.
Cooperation	Working together in carrying out decision making activities to achieve a common goal or objective.
Coordination	Cooperative actions among agencies and entities to integrate activities, responsibilities, and control to ensure resources of all parties are used as efficiently as possible.
Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA)	An agreement between political subdivisions including cities, counties, tribes or any other governmental agency or political subdivision. Includes interagency agreements, i.e., agreements between agencies or departments of the State.

Joint Project Agreement (JPA)	An agreement between parties for the joint exercise of powers to accomplish a task. A Joint Project Agreement is a type of intergovernmental agreement (IGA).
Memorandum of Agreement (MOA)/ Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)	A written agreement between parties to cooperatively work together on an agreed upon project or meet an agreed upon objective. The purpose is to have a written understanding of the agreement between parties.
Native Nations/Tribal Governments	The 22 Federally recognized Native Nations, Tribal Governments, and Tribal Communities that have jurisdiction over lands located within the boundaries of the State of Arizona. These tribes are acknowledged to exist by the Secretary of the Interior pursuant to the Federally Recognized Indian Tribe List Act of 1994, Public Law 103-454 .
State Transportation Improvement Program (STIP)	A statewide prioritized listing/program of transportation projects covering a period of four years that is consistent with the state long-range transportation plan, metropolitan transportation plans, and Transportation Improvement Programs (TIPs), and required for a project to be eligible for funding under Title 23 United States Code and Title 49 United States Code , Chapter 53.

1.06 POLICY

ADOT recognizes the sovereign status of Native Nations/Tribal Governments and their jurisdiction over lands within reservation boundaries as defined by Federal law [\[18 U.S.C. §1151\]](#) ADOT also recognizes its exclusive control and jurisdiction over state highways within reservation boundaries as defined in [A.R.S. § 28-332\(A\)](#). In recognition of Native Nations/Tribal sovereignty, ADOT respects the unique and continuous existence of each Native Nation's/Tribe's government, people, history, culture, codes and laws.

1. ADOT is committed to developing relationships with the Native Nations/Tribes in Arizona, and will respect and consider all transportation concerns. ADOT appreciates and encourages the Native Nations'/Tribal Governments' contribution to the transportation concerns of the State of Arizona.

2. ADOT will neither solicit nor assert any claim to Federal resources that would otherwise be provided directly to Native Nations/Tribes, unless an impacted Native Nation/Tribe gives consent.
3. ADOT will maintain and operate State owned transportation infrastructure within Native Nation/Tribal lands in the best interest of the State while respecting the concerns of the Native Nations/Tribal Governments and their communities.
4. ADOT management, including the director, deputy directors, district engineers, and other designated staff, will maintain the appropriate working relationships with Native Nation/Tribal Government elected officials and staff to assure the continuous operation of all respective transportation systems.
5. ADOT will consult with Native Nations/Tribal Governments during the transportation planning processes and implementation of the Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) in accordance with Federal Highway Administration, Federal Transit Administration, and Federal Aviation Administration policies and this policy.
6. ADOT will enter into Intergovernmental Agreements, Joint Project Agreements, Memoranda of Agreement, Memoranda of Understanding or Airport Development Grants when considered mutually appropriate by ADOT and the appropriate Native Nation/Tribal Government.
7. ADOT, while acknowledging funding and jurisdictional limitations, will work with Native Nations/Tribal Governments to identify available resources to jointly or individually fund projects to benefit the State and Native Nation/Tribal communities.
8. ADOT will conduct technical training, when appropriate and as resources allow, and support planning, development, construction, maintenance, and operation of transportation facilities under Native Nation/Tribal jurisdiction.
9. ADOT will engage in partnering efforts, when appropriate and as resources allow, by encouraging and improving understanding and communication with the Native Nations/Tribal Governments.
10. ADOT will encourage mutual understanding of unique cultural and organizational practices among ADOT and the Native Nations/Tribal Governments.
11. ADOT will provide timely opportunities for communication with Native Nations/Tribal Governments about decisions that may affect them. ADOT values reciprocity by Native Nations/Tribal Governments and encourages timely notification on matters that may affect the State.
12. ADOT will share appropriate technical information and data with Native Nations/Tribal Governments in accordance with established ADOT policy. ADOT values reciprocity and

encourages all Native Nations/Tribal Governments to share appropriate technical data with the State in accordance with established Native Nations/Tribal Government policy.

13. ADOT will assist Native Nations/Tribal Governments to implement transportation programs by providing technical assistance, reference tools, sharing data, conducting joint Native Nations/Tribal Government and State projects, and by cooperatively resolving transportation issues to the extent resources allow.