

Multimodal Planning  
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**TRIBAL CONSULTATION ANNUAL REPORT**  
**July 1, 2020 – June 30, 2021**

Agency Overview

The Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) is a multimodal transportation agency that is responsible for planning, building and operating the state highway system, including approximately 1,200 miles of the system on Tribal land. ADOT also provides program assistance to 14 Tribal airports and seven Tribal public transit systems.

Tribal Liaisons

ADOT employs two department-wide Tribal Liaisons both of whom coordinate actions to address Tribal transportation policy and statewide issues. They also carry out consultation, coordination and cooperation activities for transportation planning projects. The Liaisons have organized Tribal land areas within Arizona into northern and southern regions of responsibility to provide improved coverage and service.

ADOT Tribal Consultation Policy – Major Collaborative Activities

The following actions address ADOT consultation policy guidelines and were conducted with assistance from the Tribal Liaisons in coordination and participation from officials within various ADOT Divisions, Sections and Groups.

Consultation Policy Goal	Goal Objective	Goal Activity/Performance Measure
Develop, build and maintain appropriate Tribal working relationships. (Policies #1 and #4)	Reissue contract with the Inter Tribal Council of Arizona (ITCA) to provide ongoing tribal technical assistance and host Tribal Transportation Working Group (TWG) meetings to increase information sharing, improve State-Tribal coordination, and to inform Tribal decision makers for improved process implementation of State-Tribal consultation actions and/or transportation projects.	ADOT reissued its ITCA contract on 9/21/20. In FY21 TWG Meetings were held on 2/11/21 (12 Tribal attendees), 3/25/21 (5 Tribal attendees), 4/8/21 (5 Tribal attendees) and 5/20/21 (6 Tribal attendees). Topics included: Smart Highway Corridors and Tribal Broadband Outreach, AZ Strategic Traffic Safety Plan Update, AZ Traffic Safety Overview, AZ Crash Information System Demonstration, Highway Safety Improvement Program, FHWA Safe Systems Approach, AZ Tribal Traffic Safety Summit, and ADOT Fuel Tax Agreements with Tribal Governments.
Consider all Tribal transportation concerns. (Policy #1)	Hear and address Tribal-related comments voiced at State Transportation Board (STB) meetings.  Provide Tribal Transportation Updates at each STB meeting.	In FY21 ADOT Tribal Liaisons committed to attend each Board meeting to ensure Tribal-related comments were recorded and addressed. The Liaisons attended 12 STB meetings. Also in FY21 there were 18 Tribal-related comments recorded at STB meetings compared to 12 in FY20. Follow-up on the comments is ongoing and will be reported at future STB meetings.  Beginning in March 2021 ADOT Tribal Liaisons prepared and submitted monthly Tribal Transportation Updates for presentation to the Board.

<p>Provide timely opportunities for communication with Tribes about decisions that may affect them. (Policy #11)</p>	<p>Utilize ADOT Liaisons as point of contact for Tribal-related inquiries, assistance requests and outreach to Tribal governments for ADOT transportation study projects.</p>	<p>ADOT Liaisons provided assistance with Tribal outreach for the Sonoran Corridor Tier 1 Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) – Tohono O’odham Nation; the Interstate 11 Corridor Tier 1 EIS – Tohono O’odham Nation and Pascua Yaqui Tribe; the Interstate 10 Wild Horse Pass Corridor Tier 1 EIS and Design Concept Report – Gila River Indian Community, and the North-South Corridor Tier 1 EIS - Gila River Indian Community. A number of project update meetings were conducted with Tribal officials. Several Tribes also attended public hearings and submitted comments on the study documents.</p>
<p>Improve Tribal consultation for the implementation of the Arizona Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP). (Policy #5)</p> <p>Encourage mutual understanding of unique cultural and organizational practices among ADOT and Tribes. (Policies #8 and #10)</p>	<p>To consult with Tribes on all major projects. Increase participation with the state, local governments, Councils of Government (COGs) and Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) for funding and technical assistance on projects that may be included in the Arizona STIP.</p> <p>Encourage ADOT, COG, MPO and stakeholder agency personnel to take training that will enhance their understanding and working relationships with the Tribes.</p>	<p>On 8/18/20 the ADOT Multimodal Planning Division Programming Team completed an update to the electronic STIP (eSTIP) map tool to include Tribal land boundaries. This new feature simplifies the process of locating projects within Tribal lands. ADOT Tribal Liaisons notified all Tribal transportation contacts to make them aware of the feature and where it is located on ADOT’s website. It is expected that the map tool will encourage Tribal participation at STB meetings, improve communication with ADOT District personnel and promote positive dialogue at future ADOT-Tribal Leadership Meetings.</p> <p>The ADOT Tribal Transportation Consultation Online Training Course continues to be offered to ADOT and outside agency personnel. In FY21 ADOT completed an update to the course which went live on 1/4/21.</p> <p>On 8/6/20 ADOT Tribal Liaisons provided editing comments for an update to ADOT’s COG-MPO Guidelines and Procedures Manual - Tribal Planning Section. The recommended updates enable agencies to be informed of current policies and processes for consultation with Tribal governments on potential transportation improvement projects on Tribal land.</p>
<p>Maintain and operate State infrastructure within Tribal lands. (Policy #3)</p>	<p>Increase communication and address Tribal concerns related to facility maintenance needs.</p> <p>Consult and coordinate with Tribes on the implementation of transportation improvement projects that impact the state highway system.</p>	<p>In FY21 the ADOT Traffic Safety Section, ADOT Tribal Liaisons and Fort McDowell Yavapai Nation met to discuss traffic safety concerns at the SR87 and Fort McDowell Road intersection. As a result several short-term improvements were completed to reduce crash potential. Long-term counter measures require completion of a Traffic Impact Analysis (TIA) underway by the Nation. Further progress is pending review of the TIA.</p>

<p>Neither solicit nor assert any claim to federal resources available to tribes. (Policy #2)</p>	<p>Remove barriers that Tribes may have in accessing funding for transportation projects.</p>	<p>23 USC 202(a)(9) authorizes State DOTs to transfer eligible Federal funds directly to Tribal governments through an Intergovernmental funds transfer agreement. During FY21 \$1.7 million of Highway Safety Improvement Funds were transferred by ADOT to the Colorado River Indian Tribes for safety improvements on Mohave Road.</p>
<p>Identify available resources to jointly/individually fund projects that benefit the State and Tribes. (Policy #7)</p>	<p>Engage in a spirit of cooperation and coordination, partner stakeholders agree to fund joint projects. Pursue funding through State and Federal programs.</p>	<p>Provided Surface Transportation Program funding and technical assistance to Ganado Chapter for a Traffic Impact Study (TIS) on State Route 264 for traffic to enter/exit a future Senior/Veterans Center. TIS is being used to seek additional construction funding for the project.</p>
<p>Conduct technical training, when appropriate and as resources allow. (Policy #8)</p> <p>Share appropriate technical information and data with the Tribes. (Policy #12)</p> <p>Enter into appropriate State-Tribal IGAs (Policy #6)</p>	<p>Assist Tribes to access the most reliable, accurate and timely data to support and prioritize requests for transportation projects.</p> <p>Encourage Tribal police departments to begin utilizing the ADOT Traffic Records and Criminal Software (TraCS) program to enter data into the State database.</p>	<p>Navajo Division of Transportation and ADOT initiated Crash Data Sharing and TraCS IGA. TraCS project meetings will continue until onboarding and training is completed for the Navajo Department of Public Safety. The White Mountain Apache Tribe entered into a Crash Data Sharing IGA with ADOT. These tribes join the Yavapai-Prescott Tribe in working to improve crash data sharing and funding opportunities.</p> <p>In September 2020 ADOT completed Certifications of Road Maintenance Agreements for the San Juan Southern Paiute Tribe (US89) and Tohono O’odham Nation (SR86, SR386). These certifications enable the Tribes to include state route data into their portion of the National Tribal Transportation Facility Inventory which in turn assists them with planning for improvements on their transportation systems.</p>

Recommendations from Tribal representatives: Recommendations for safety improvements on US191 in the Navajo Nation Many Farms Chapter area and ADOT support for a study of Tribal school bus routes were received through tribal-related comments at State Transportation Board meetings. Follow-up actions on these recommendations have been initiated.

Revisions to Tribal Consultation Policy: ADOT’s Tribal Consultation Policy was updated and approved on March 25, 2021. Revisions included addition to reference of A.R.S. 41-2051(C) ‘responsibilities of state agencies’ which supersedes Executive Order 2006-14, addition of state statute and federal policy titles, and addition of defining background narrative that authorizes establishment of the policy. Any future policy updates will be made per input received from ADOT management and/or tribal leadership pursuant to A.R.S. 41-2051(C).

Liaison Challenge: The COVID-19 pandemic is an ongoing consultation activity challenge for ADOT Tribal Liaisons due to Tribal executive order restrictions involving Tribal office closures and limitations on large gatherings (in-person project meetings, transportation partnership meetings and public involvement meetings). Restrictions had been lifted to a certain extent by the Tribes and the Liaisons continue to conduct virtual business meetings as needed.

For questions or more information contact:

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