

**Navajo Nation Partnership
Quarterly Steering Committee Meeting
February 26, 2015 9:00-3:30 p.m.
ADOT Flagstaff District Training Room**

Attendees		
Alberto Peshlakai, Navajo County	Don Sneed, ADOT	Myra Rothman, ADOT
Audra Merrick, ADOT	Garret Silverman, BIA	Roland Becenti, BIA
Bonnie Opie, ADOT	Jason Yazzie, NDOT	Ruth Greenspan, ADOT
Contrella Dixon, ADOT	Jesse Thompson, Navajo County	Taft Blackhorse, NDOT
Darryl Bradley, NDOT	Kee Yazzie, ADOT	Tim Dalegowski, Coconino
David Zimmerman, ADOT	Mackenzie Kirby, ADOT	Victoria Lee, NDOT

Facilitator: Michele Crank, ADOT, Partnering Office
Recorder: Clem Webb, ADOT, Partnering Office

The next Partnership Steering Committee meeting is April 9, 2015.

Agenda Items and Highlights

Topic	
	Introductions
Discussion	Members stated their names and why the Partnership is important to them.
<p>Comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Because the roads are our conduit to schools and jobs, 23% are paved, 77% aren't; the last 4 years this Partnership has been critical for NDOT. • Communicating Navajo Nation Transportation needs through this process. • Communicating and working together as best we can. • Face-to-face has been so valuable to us, it helps with the processes and we helped to develop them. Been with the Partnership since it was formed. • Getting to know the people, and putting names with faces. • Four years involved, very helpful to me, understanding better how NDOT works. • Sharing challenges and issues. Communication process enhanced the relationship for N20. • Being able to address each other by first name we've come a long way. We need to grow a little more. • Regarding the landslide project, we learned things can get done and people realized how fast that happened. We know what we need to do to obtain resources. • Working together is making progress. • The County needs more information on the TIGER Grants. • We made progress steps, asking for materials for dirt roads on Navajo Nation. • We can share resources. For instance, ADOT policy will allow millings to be given to other entities for transportation purposes and agreements can be created that will allow ADOT Equipment Services to work on equipment that belongs to other entities. 	

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- 2004 was when we got involved in Partnerships on a quarterly basis. Mark Maryboy of the Navajo Nation TCDC and Councilman at the time made a request to former Governor Napolitano to direct ADOT to re-establish this partnership. ADOT's focus was that Partnering is the way we do business. We've been in this process for the past 11 years.
The Partnership is very important to continue communication between the state and Navajo Nation and to address issues before they become issues. It helps partnership know processes, who to go to, and it streamlines the processes as well.
- Very important, based on information I gather from this Partnership it is very important.

Topic	
Discussions	Presenter: Ruth Greenspan, ADOT
	ADOT Environmental Presentation - See Presentation at http://www.aztribaltransportation.com/nnp/steering-presentations.asp
<p>Ruth Greenspan is the Cultural Resources Program Manager and Agreements Coordinator for the ADOT Environmental Planning Group. She provided an overview of EPG responsibilities, environmental review areas, and the recent EPG reorganization. Under ADOT's environmental processes all development projects require an environmental analysis and clearance. For ADOT easements on the Navajo Nation, EPG also adheres to Navajo Nation standards and requirements. She also focused on the following topics:</p> <p>Section 106 Consultation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The FHWA Arizona Division consults individually on projects throughout Arizona. • Consultation is required for ADOT projects funded by FHWA. • Other projects must go through a review process and work with the FHWA Arizona Division. <p>State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) Programmatic Agreement (PA):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Some projects can be addressed programmatically. All must meet certain conditions and some don't have to stop to confer. • FHWA and ADOT are developing an overarching PA with SHPO that will address how Section 106 consultation is conducted. • Tribes and agencies will be consulted on the PAs and will be invited to participate. • If the Navajo Nation chooses to participate, stipulations in the PA can then guide how FHWA and ADOT consult with the Navajo Nation. • An individual agreement with the Navajo Nation can address natural resources and cultural resources. • The Navajo Nation and ADOT can coordinate to make sure the PAs are consistent with each other and for a consistent process. • The Navajo DOT is willing to provide resources to ADOT to streamline processes. Partnering should be included in Navajo Nation's PA with FHWA. It should also address Navajo Nation law on Temporary Construction Permits and reburials. 	

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- It was suggested that an Environmental Task Team could be formed to continue these discussions.

Biology and Water Quality:

- It was suggested that Navajo Nation Regulatory personnel be requested to present on water quality 401/404 processes and Storm Water Pollution Protection Plan (SWPPP). They could discuss effects of these processes on the Navajo Nation.
- Julia Manfredi of ADOT EPG should also be invited to the next meeting; she is ADOT's co-coordinator for 404 and 401 permits.

Action Items	Responsible Person(s)	Deadline
Contact Navajo Nation Regulatory Office to have a representative make a presentation on water quality/404 processes and Storm Water Pollution Protection Plan (SWPPP).	Darryl Bradley/Michele Crank	ASAP
Invite Julia Manfredi, ADOT EPA to attend next Partnership meeting.	Michele Crank	ASAP

Discussion	Presenter: Darryl Bradley, Navajo DOT
Partnership Updates	Navajo Division of Transportation Presentation - See Presentation at http://www.aztribaltransportation.com/nnp/steering-presentations.asp

Last Quarter project highlights:

Navajo DOT is working to improve processes addressing NEPA environmental compliance for improvement projects and maintenance activities. Navajo DOT is working with FHWA and BIA to understand how to begin projects and what environmental processes to follow. Some projects are funded with Tribal funds etc. Or a project comes in with no scoping or funding, this holds up maintenance. All of this should be taken care of before the project development phase.

The Navajo DOT Planning Group continues to have quarterly meetings. They are working to roll out the Navajo Nation long range transportation plan in April or May for community input. The Plan contains projects, goals and objectives and is needed in order to use funds. The Plan will also be presented to the Navajo Nation leadership. Victoria Lee will follow-up to provide a list of planning meetings. April 13th is the date for the next Regional planning meeting.

On the project development side Navajo DOT receives excise tax monies and it is partnering on safety enhancement type of projects. One initiative is to develop a mini 5 year plan to program grade, drain and gravel improvements. There is the need to identify routes and program funding. It is expected that by April or May some of the work will be done by Navajo DOT maintenance staff. The Navajo DOT will work through MOAs and IGAs with ADOT, Coconino and Apache Counties as these have the most presence.

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Tribal Leadership has asked the Nation to come up with a Tribal Transportation stimulus package. Transportation improvements are crucial and leadership is looking to the Navajo DOT and partnerships to get these improvements done by expanding service and accelerating work. One concept is to save up Tribal Transportation Program (TTP) funds for two fiscal years to generate funds for construction. Navajo DOT would then approach leadership for up front funds then reimburse them with TTP funds.

The Navajo Nation is still interested in TraCS. However, some of the challenges are that the Navajo DPS is looking at other avenues as well to collect crash data. The current process is that the Navajo DOT Department of Highway Safety goes to the seven Navajo police districts to pull paper copies of crash reports to obtain the crash data. Navajo DOT only has partial funding for the TraCS project. Jonah Begay is the contact for this project.

On May 12, 2015 the Navajo Nation will have a new Tribal President. An update will be provided at the next Partnership Steering Committee meeting.

Another needed area of outreach is to identify someone with ADOT knowledge that can provide crash information. It was noted that Rick Turner is the ADOT Traffic Records Section Manager who the Navajo DOT can work with on TraCS and other crash reporting needs. The Navajo DOT had consulted with New Mexico and Arizona and was informed that the funding is there but there are other partners they need to work with.

It was also noted that at the Arizona Tribal Strategic Partnering Team (ATSPT) Statewide Tribal Transportation Re-engagement Forum held in February, the topic of crash data was discussed. There will be information from the Forum posted on the Arizona Tribal Transportation Website.

Action Items	Responsible Person(s)	Deadline
Provide a list of Navajo DOT planning meetings.	Victoria Lee	ASAP
Provide information to NDOT from ATSPT meeting regarding crash data and TraCS. Four staff members from Navajo DOT attended the ATSPT meeting which was held on 02.19.2015	Victoria Lee Marco Sells	ASAP

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Topic

Partnership Updates

ADOT:

Flagstaff District : Audra Merrick, District Engineer - **See report at**
<http://www.aztribaltransportation.com/nnp/steering-presentations.asp>

Discussion:

Edge pavement work is underway on the US 89 Landslide Repair Project.

A request was made to have the Flagstaff and Holbrook Districts send out “hot off the press district quarterly reports” to the partnership members. This would provide a heads up on upcoming projects.

Holbrook District: Kee Yazzie, Project Development Specialist - **See report at**
<http://www.aztribaltransportation.com/nnp/steering-presentations.asp>

Discussion:

What are the plans for the pedestrian overpass in Ganado? It does not ever get used and is considered an eye sore.

- It will most likely stay there and ADOT will not do anything with the overpass.

Has a right turn lane been considered for N4 or are there recommendations to widen the road (US 191)?

- There are no plans to add a right turn lane at N4. It was noted that entities wanting to add a project to an existing project need to be aware that this should be addressed prior to the design phase. ADOT can't go back to address the additional project after the existing project gets to that phase.
- On US 191 at the Rock Point Trading Post the local Chapter wants to request pedestrian warning lights on both sides of the road. There are trucks speeding down the hill and near misses are going unrecorded, they are trying to prevent pedestrian crashes from happening.

What is involved in that type of safety project?

- The Nation will need to bring it up to ADOT and the project will need to meet warrant, then crash data and funding will need to be identified.
- The ADOT scoping process was explained as well as when NDOT can raise issues of concern regarding road construction projects on the Navajo Nation.

Bureau of Indian Affairs, Navajo Region: Roland Becenti, Acting Agency Road Engineer

- Work continues on construction projects on 1,600 miles of BIA roads on the Navajo Nation. BIA Navajo Region works with the Hopi Tribe as well and most work doesn't involve state routes.
- One ongoing initiative identified through this Partnership is to develop material sources for community projects.

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- There are also various environmental studies underway for upcoming projects.
- BIA is preparing for the N20 transfer back to the Navajo Nation road inventory when US 89 re-opens on March 27, 2015. There is the need to start working on the transfer process.
- There are BIA road preservation projects mainly to maintain roads.
- Federal law requires archeological clearances when federal funds are being used to build roads.
- Michele shared a comment made by Leroy Gishi, Chief, BIA Division of Transportation, during the February ATSPT Re-Engagement Forum. Mr. Gishi mentioned that the N20 project process is currently being used as a model to train BIA Superintendents on a National level how partnering and developing communication between all stakeholders can expedite projects.

Navajo County: Jesse Thompson, Supervisor

Navajo County is working to re-establish the “Indian School Bus Route Funding Program” formerly funded under the Indian Reservation Road Program. The County will introduce a \$1.5 million proposal through the National Association of County Engineers (NACE) in July. This will be pursued under the MAP 21 reauthorization process. This would benefit the Communities within Navajo County and the re-location areas. There is the potential to leverage funds through HURF. It is also an obligation of the Federal government to assist tribes to maintain the school bus routes considering impacts to education.

The County is also looking to purse federal TIGER grant funding for a project on the White Cone – Teesto Road. This may involve both Navajo Nation and Hopi Tribe.

There is also the need for funding on N17 and N15 through Navajo County.

A question was asked about ADOT’s archaeological process. Ruth Greenspan responded with information regarding the environmental components. She also suggested that Ed Green of ADOT EPG be contacted as he provides consultations with Tribes, his contact number is 602.920.3882.

Action Items	Responsible Person(s)	Deadline
Invite Bret Anderson to present on the current ADOT Programming process and Justin Feek to present on the new ADOT Planning to Programming (P2P) process at the next meeting.	Michele Crank/Don Sneed	April 1, 2015

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Discussion	Annual meeting break out discussion. See information at: http://www.aztribaltransportation.com/nnp/steering-presentations.asp
<p>The information that was discussed at the annual partnership will be reviewed by the task teams.</p> <p>Discussion on Funding sources:</p> <p>NDOT needs to be more involved with NACOG, this is a value benefit to obtaining funding and getting projects done. In addition to working with NACOG, NDOT needs to keep addressing the top five Navajo Nation transportation issues at every State Transportation Board meeting and they need to be consistent in addressing the State Board continuously.</p> <p>Discussion on Right of Way:</p> <p>ADOT can't conduct work outside of its right of way. The duration of right of way grants of easement (i.e. change from perpetuity to 20 years), negotiations on timing and or extensions granted needs to be addressed. Do we have an MOU? We need to revisit the Navajo Nation/Navajo DOT/ADOT MOU on Intergovernmental Relations. This question is referred to ROW Task Team.</p> <p>Discussion on Mineral Pits/Natural Resources:</p> <p>This information will be forwarded to the Natural Resources Task Team.</p>	

Action Items	Responsible Person(s)	Deadline
Provide the three subject area information to Task Teams: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Right of Way Task Team Champion- Taft Blackhorse • Natural Resources Task Team Champion- Ray Russell • Funding discussion, we need a contact name from Navajo Division of Transportation to Champion this discussion through task team. Use information within goals. 	Taft Blackhorse Ray Russell Darryl Bradley to identify name.	Report at next meeting.
Taft Blackhorse to provide contact name for Navajo Regulatory.	Taft Blackhorse	ASAP
Invite Julia Manfredi, ADOT404/401 Program Coordinator.	Michele Crank	April 1, 2015
Talk to Marlinda Littleman, NDOT and Ed Green, ADOT to do a joint presentation on THPO, for July 16 th meeting.	Darryl Bradley	March 5, 2015

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List of NNDOT quarterly meetings to be included in meeting minutes.	Victoria Lee	March 5, 2015
Navajo DOT presentation on new leadership and process at the July 16, 2015 meeting.	Darryl Bradley	June 15, 2015
Check on the status of the MOU that Misty Klann sent to Arlando for submittal to Navajo Department of Justice.	Darryl Bradley	Provide report at next meeting.
Re engage all task Teams and have task team champions report at the next Steering Committee meeting. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Taft Blackhorse (2 Task Teams) • Darryl Bradley • Karen Benally • Ray Russell 	Michele Crank	Place on next meeting agenda.

Topic

Discussion

Presenter: Bonnie Opie, Interim ADOT Partnering Administrator

How Steering Committee/Task Teams should function in addressing goals.

Discussion:

Bonnie Opie led a roundtable discussion asking the partner representatives to provide their perspectives on how the Steering Committee and Task Teams were functioning to address the Partnership goals. Generally all of those who commented felt the Partnership was functioning effectively as it is set up currently. They felt the Partnership was meeting their needs by the sharing of information and being able to discuss issues at the Steering Committee level and then being able to address specific issues through coordinated task teams or other follow-up communication. Also ensuring that each task team reports out on progress to the Steering Committee and at the Annual Meetings helps to keep the Partnership accountable for meeting its goals.

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ACTION ITEMS

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2. Invite Julia Manfredi, ADOT EPA to attend next Partnership meeting.	Michele Crank	ASAP
3. Provide a list of Navajo DOT quarterly planning meetings at the various agencies. Include this information in meeting minutes. Agency Meetings <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 03/21/2015 Western Agency- Kaibeto Chapter • 03/14/2015 Northern Agency- San Juan • 03/21/2015 Fort Defiance Agency- Ft. Def Chapter • 03/07/2015 Eastern Agency- Borrego Pass 	Victoria Lee	ASAP
4. Provide information to NDOT from ATSPT meeting regarding crash data and TraCS. Four staff members from Navajo DOT attended the ATSPT meeting which was held on 02.19.2015	Victoria Lee Marco Sells	ASAP
5. Invite Bret Anderson to present on the current ADOT Programming process and Justin Feek to present on the new ADOT Planning to Programming (P2P) process at the next meeting.	Michele Crank/Don Sneed	April 1, 2015
6. Provide the three subject area information to Task Teams: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Right of Way Task Team Champion- Taft Blackhorse • Natural Resources Task Team Champion- Ray Russell • Funding discussion, we need a contact name from Navajo Division of Transportation to Champion this discussion through task team. Use information within goals. 	Taft Blackhorse Ray Russell Darryl Bradley to identify name.	Report at next meeting.
7. Provide a contact name for Navajo Regulatory.	Taft Blackhorse	ASAP
8. Talk to Marlinda Littleman, NDOT and Ed Green, ADOT to do a joint presentation on Tribal Historic Preservation Office (THPO), for July 16 th meeting.	Darryl Bradley	March 5, 2015

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<p>9. Arrange for a Navajo DOT presentation on new leadership and process at the July 16, 2015 meeting.</p>	Darryl Bradley	June 15, 2015
<p>10. Check on the status of the MOU that Misty Klann sent to Arlando for submittal to Navajo Department of Justice.</p>	Darryl Bradley	Provide report at next meeting.
<p>11. Re-engage all task Teams and have task team champions report at the next Steering Committee meeting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Taft Blackhorse (2 Task Teams) • Darryl Bradley • Karen Benally • Ray Russell 	Michele Crank	Place on next meeting agenda.

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Participant Meeting Evaluation Feedback

Feedback is based on 7 forms.

Ratings: 1 = lowest 5 = Highest

1. How valuable was this meeting for you?

Average Rating 4.42

What about this meeting was most valuable to you?

- Networking and discussing issues openly
- Exciting the participation of taking part in the discussions of Tribal Transportation issues
- Discussion on group work sessions
- Discussion of priorities and identification of possible list to accomplish wanted results
- Networking, getting re-focused w/respect to steering committee and task team goals
- Partner reports, feedback on Annual Meeting Group Discussions, R/W, Funding, Materials

2. What would have improved this meeting?

- Having more clarification of the goals that came out of the annual meeting
- Get Task Teams going, maybe set dates for Task Team to have their meetings
- Update reports from Task Teams
- It was all good

3. How do you rate the Facilitator?

Average Rating: 4.57

- Good job keeping group focused
- Invited all participants to comment on concerns/issues
- Real good! Thank you
- Good job Michele!

4. How do you rate the effectiveness of this team?

Average Rating: 4.28

- Coming together and getting focused
- Group-sharing ideas that will move the groups towards developing new initiatives
- They are the best, good working relationships. Their participation shows support and worthwhile effort of each member
- The team has ability to address the goals through task teams

5. What other comments or suggestions do you have?

- All presenters to show up!
- Everyone had input in the discussion
- Today's comments and suggests were good and needed issues to be worked on