

The Annual Meeting of Navajo Nation/ADOT/BIA/FHWA/COUNTIES Partnership Steering Committee

DRAFT Minutes	July 9-10, 2008	8:30 a.m-4:30 p.m.(9th) 8:30-3:00 (10th)	Window Rock, Arizona
Attendees	Evonne Aldana, Eric Ashley, Nathan Banks, Lorenzo Bedonie, Roland Becenti, Jonah Begay, Margie Begay, Vickie Begay, Andy Bertelsen, Richard Bowmen, Max Bighorse, Lee Bigwater, Dineh Benalley, Calvin Castillo, Ricardo Campos, Sam Chavez, Paula P. Claw, Percy Deal, Dianne Duboise, Lenora Etsitty, Dan Gaither, Ermalinda Gene, Senator Albert Hale, Rayelita Haley, John Harper, Clyde Holyoak, Todd Honyaomen Sr., Chuck Howe, Zane James, Jimson Joe, Larry Joe, Lynn Johnson, Geraldine Jones, Herby J. Larson, Gail Lewis, Paul Long Sr., Kendall Long, Don Mauller, Angelica Mercy, Carlton Nez, Randal Pair, Julius Pete, Tom Platero, Stan Robbins, Myra (Rusty) Rothman, Manuel Sanchez, Franklin Sandoval, Joe Salt, Leo Sheppard, Dave Shondee, Ron D. Shutiva, David Silversmith, Roscoe Smith, Don Sneed, Jeff Swan, Rakesh Tripathi, Myra Rothman, Bill Tait, Jesse Thompson, Tom Todacheeney, Julius Tulley, Marcus Tulley, Emerson Tracey, Tammy Tso, Dave Martinez, Edith Morgan, Bill Pederson, Tim Penney, Michael Quintana, Alfred Reed, Johnny Robbins, Stan Robbins, Heidi Vasiloff, Patricia White, Abe Wilson, Delphin Yazzie Nez, Kee Yazzie, Lemont L. Yazzie, Sr., Sherylene Yazzie, Clyde Yellowhair, Rod Wigman		
Facilitator	Heidi Vasiloff		

Future Meeting Dates:

2nd Thursday of the month – Quarterly

- **October 9th in Flagstaff hosted by Apache County**
- January 8th in Phoenix hosted by FHWA

Future Agenda Items:

1. Escalation Ladder documentation - need to complete
2. Adding the Hopi Tribe to the Charter
3. Plan for the joint Hopi/Navajo Meetings – establish 2009 meeting dates

Annual Meeting Minutes

1. **Invocation - Traditional Blessing** given by Mr. Paul Long
2. **The Pledge of Allegiance** was led by Julius Tulley
3. **Welcome and Introductions** - County Commissioner Percy Deal and Navajo DOT Director Tom Platero provided introductions and welcome

4. **Agenda Review**, house-keeping and action items was facilitated by Heidi Vasiloff (see updated action item list).
 - a. Send out official working letter head - Heidi
 - b. New Charter will be signed at next meeting – Evonne
 - c. 10 YR “Right Away” examples – Tom Platero

5. Goals – voted on by Partnership – Here is a list of the ones that received any votes.

1. **Sharing Resources** (8 votes) - Road yards - construct new road yards and share existing yards
Action: a work group was created with the following team members:
 - ADOT = Randy Ronglher and Chuck Gillick
 - Apache County = Stan Robbins
 - Navajo County – Clyde Holyoak
 - Navajo NDOT = Tom Platero (CHAIR) and Kendall
 - BIA - Rolland
2. **The Navajo Nation have available their Natural Resources** and share it for Road Maintenance and Construction (Gravel and Water) (8 votes)
Action – assigned to the Resources Task Team. Look into the water and gravel. Prepare a cost benefit proposal and send it to Navajo Nation Council. Establish an inventory amount – and a 5-year mileage estimate on crushed gravel!
3. Support one another for enhanced funding (4 votes)
4. Support self-determination efforts of Navajo DOT (638) (4 votes)
5. Transportation Planning - Integrated Planning effort (3 votes)
6. Implementation of Task Team action items (3 votes)
7. Provide technical assistance to the Nation for all planning and pre-clearance (2 votes)
8. Develop Emergency Response Plan (snow removal and washouts) (2 votes)
9. Gain a better understanding of partners processes (roles and limitations) (2 votes)
10. Recommit to Task Team participation and attendance (2 votes)
11. MOU agreements (templates)(1 vote)
12. Clearly articulate the benefits of the partnership from all sides(1 vote)
13. Standard Be innovative—think outside the box (1 vote)

6. **Animals in the Right Away Task Team** –

Presenters: David Silversmith and Myra (Rusty) Rothman

- a. Task Team goals were reviewed and the history was discussed
 - Vendors and animals in the right-of-way were initially one task team
 - Accident data was plotted on maps
 - It was determined that the fences/cattle guards needed some inspection
- b. They decided to focus on the following:
 - Jurisdiction
 - Danger Zones
 - Partnerships
 - Education
 - Extensive public education campaign is planned for the Navajo Nation
 - Video planned for next year
 - Children focus – produce a comic book, brochure, etc.
 - Brochure to be handed out at Navajo Nation Fair
 - Rebuild/Replace Cattle guards and fences – over \$100,000 dollars is allocated for the replacement program. FY09 projects underway, mainly in Chinley area, chosen due to accident data- installation of chain link fence/new cattle guards. FY10 project possibly to undergo, an additional 5 miles of work
 - A goal is to get law enforcement involved to help maintain gate closing
- c. **Open Discussion/Action Items...**
 - Enforcement needs to be looked into—who's responsible? Need to document Enforcement issue
 - They are still looking for catchy slogans!
 - Franklin Castillo is a new team member!
 - Research Case law Navajo DOT
- d. **Direction from Full Team:**
 - This is an important project and the team would like it completed by the 09 annual meeting!
 - First focus on education of the public
 - Second focus on the enforcement – understanding who has judicial authority for citing for gates open and animals in the ROW.
 - Look for legislative support

7. **Emergency Response Task Team** –

Presenters: Bill Tait, ADOT Emergency Management Coordinator and Chuck Howe, ADOT, District Environmental Coordinator

- a. **Problem Statement** - Lack of consistency, shared resources and communication regarding incident management and protocol among various internal and external jurisdictions.
- b. **Mission** - Establish protocols for communications, resource utilization and operational procedures to be used during joint operations.
- c. They had six primary **goals**:
 - o Identify who needs to be on the team;
 - o Obtain commitment from team members;
 - o Identify existing procedures currently used by each jurisdiction and agency;
 - o Identify other groups/forums focusing on some of the same issues (reduce/eliminate redundancy)
 - o List of existing and needed agreements between all agencies and jurisdictions
 - o Develop joint operations procedures.
- d. Next Bill Tait discussed the **Evacuation & Reception Plan**
- e. **Open Discussion/Action Items...**
 - o Develop a plan for the mass movement of people through joint operations – partner with ADOT and Navajo Nation. Have the Chapters along I40 Route commit to the plan (Hopi and Navajo)
 - o Send a letter to Navajo Nation and Hopi requesting participation for plan
 - o Add a member to the task team from Navajo Nation Office of Emergency Management.
 - o Research good Samaritan Act
 - o Confirm how the state deals with large/small emergency responses
- f. **Direction from Full Team:**
 - o Primary objective is to complete the Resource Book – especially the:
 - o Communication/radio segments
 - o Mapping portion
 - o Consider holding table-top exercises
 - o Look to have the procedures completed during the next fiscal year (09/10)

8. **Processes Task Team**

Presenters: Myra (Rusty) Rothman, ADOT Right of Way Agent/Tribal Liaison

a. **Updates and Successes:**

- The team has created two template for all entities to reference – the maintenance of Roads template and equipment sharing template.

b. **Open Discussion**

- Language needs to be sorted out so that funding is not wasted, partnership agreements should be made so that money, skills, etc can be mingled
- Need to reinvigorate the team.

c. **Direction from Full Team:**

- Need standardized templates – request all attorneys to be in one room to complete!
- New Members – Gene Martinez, Tom Platero and Ermalinda Gene.

8. **Training Task Team**

Presenters: Tom Platero, Navajo DOT Director

a. **Updates:** Tom updated the team on the success of the partnership and cross-training opportunities.

- PEP process used to identify training needs
- A variety of classes have been held
- Look to combine forces with Hopi and other committees
- Flagger certification team needed

b. **Direction from Full Team:**

- Tom Platero will send the full list of needs from Navajo DOT
- Look to more LTAP support
- The new Champion is Riley Wilson
- New team members – Ermalinda Gene and Ed Stillings

9) Vendors in the Right-of-Way Task Team

Presenters: Myra (Rusty) Rothman, ADOT Right of Way Agent/Tribal Liaison

- a) **Goal:** To protect the public and vendors by removing the vendors from the side of the road.
- b) **Challenges:**
 - Fences are damaged and pushed back by the vendors.
 - They are blocking roads and right-of-ways
 - IT is not safe for visitors and vendors
 - Concerned about the loss of livelihood for the vendors
- c) **Open Discussion**
 - Work with the animals in the ROW education efforts -
 - Posters to make people aware of issues
 - Task team call meeting with vendors to educate
 - Identify where vending belongs in the Navajo Nation regulations – to tourism, self-employment or economic development departments. Vending should be regulated.
 - They reviewed the old agreement – but a new agreement must be established because tribal structures have changed.
- d) **Action Items**
 - Need a Champion by next meeting, a leader to take the team to the next level (Navajo/ADOT combo)
 - Look into creating permanent locations - “Vendor Villages” with proper agreements.
 - Add Navajo Nation’s Economic Development Department to the Task Team.
 - Combine education efforts of Animals/Vendors in the Right-of-Way issues
 - Create a new agreement after gaining support of agencies
- e) **Direction from Full Team:**
 - This is an important project and the team would like it completed by the 09 annual meeting!!!!
 - Focus on regulation responsibility and clarity
 - Work with animals in ROW for education project
 - Focus on procedures
 - Review the MOU and update!!
 - New CHAMPIONS –
 - Zane James – Navajo DOT
 - Chuck Gillick - ADOT

10) Resource Task Team

Presenters: Stan Robbins, Apache County Director of Economic Development

- a. **Goal:** to identify gravel/water resources on the Navajo Nation and to share facilities.
- b. **Progress to date:**
 - o Approached minerals and water resources departments to research the process they use to authorize use of the resources.
 - o Gathered data to produce maps that show all the roads on the Nation, including the planned improvements/construction and all resources required. They gathered – maps of the roads on Navajo Nation, BIA maps showing all paved roads, ADOT’s 20 yr. road improvement plans, and school bus route maps. They also have the minerals provided gravel pits and water resources maps.
 - o It is proposed to create a complete map showing the elements above.
- c. **Open Discussion**
 - o Try to meet in Chinley – to reduce the drive time and expense for the task team.
 - o There was a discussion about the water needed for these projects. There is an 1802 Executive Order that discusses the windmills controlled by the.
 - o Ground volcanic cinders are available to use, at our own expense, so long as we follow the restrictions laid down by the land owners.
 - o May need to classify some of the urgent repair work as “emergency measures” in order to wave certain procedures
- d. **Direction from Full Team:**
 - o New team members – add a person from Navajo Nation DNR – like Howard Draper – assigned to Tom Platero

11. Full Team Discussion

- **New Facilitator** - Evonne Aldana provided a brief introduction. Evonne will serve as the new facilitator beginning at the end of the session! The team welcomed her to the group!
- **Issue Resolution Circle Contacts** – all Task Teams are asked to send the names of their contacts to Evonne for the next meeting – to complete the issue resolution circle.
- **The Team was asked to identify the Challenges faced in 2008:**
 - Unresponsiveness and in consistent communication
 - Lack of attendance to meetings
 - Technology issues
 - Spread too thin
 - Need Champions/Team leaders
 - Budget Restrictions
 - Gas Prices
 - Over Planning - need for more direct action
 - Too much red tape (white tape)
 - Education Gaps
 - Different Goals/need streamline
- **The Team was asked to identify the Future Goals for the partnership:**
 - Maintain roads., improve efficiency, save money
 - TCDC to (re)invite NACOG
 - Research the 1 cent task
 - Invite decision makers to sessions
 - Make specific streamline recommendations
 - Research railroad issues
 - Public Transit
 - Continue training task team

12. Day Two – Welcome addresses!

- Gail Lewis with ADOT - discussed the citizens initiative recommending the one cent sales tax state wide to ensure funds for public transportation projects
- Rakesh Tripathi with ADOT – discussed Arizona population growth and its impact on transportation. He discussed the reorganization of ADOT and the need for future partnerships and cost sharing.
- John Harper with ADOT - discussed the planned projects.
- Calvin Castillo from the BIA, spoke on behalf of Irvin, stating that BIA is committed to the partnership.
- Stan Robbins spoke on behalf of Apache County – discussing the plans for the road, the growing cost of dirt road maintenance/cost and the impact to County bus routes w/ all weather surface needs.
- Navajo County Supervisor Percy Deal discussed the importance of sovereignty for all Nations. He will support the Navajo Nations transportation plan. He also stated that in order to maintain partnership, Navajo Nation must provide the plan and Apache County

will not hesitate to fully support them. The Nav. Nation must take full leadership on the Transportation issues.

- Nathan Banks with FHWA said the Trust Fund is not running out of money, the surpluses are just diminished—Congress must do something about the lack of revenue and the agency has been discussing remodeling the diminishing revenues, many proposals, few solutions.
- Todd. D Honyaoma with the Hopi Nation commented that the Hopi Tribe recognizes its need for change and is glad to be a part of the partnership, because it will help them to move forward.
- Mr. Bigwater talked about the Navajo Transit System and handed out a pamphlet.
- Tom Platero provided comments about the partnership. He said that the Navajo DOT is continuing to expand to meet the needs of the Nation. He provided a list of the request for help from the other agencies.

13. Small Group Work – Each agency was asked to identify the vision for the partnership and the goals for 08-09. Here is what they came up with!

- FHWA and New Mexico State
 - Vision for partnership
Ensure tribal governments become integral parts of the transportation process – Education – process and funding!
 - Goals
 - Help Partners understand the process
 - How decisions are made and when funding can be sued
 - Funding options
 - Streamline the process and reduce the red tape.
 - Work towards solving Tribal transportation issues
 - Ensure that everyone understands the limitations and capabilities of all organizations
 - Be innovative—think outside the box (1 vote)
 - OUTREACH AND EDUCATE—establish outreach and educational programs from children to congress
- BIA
 - Vision for Partnership
Continue to assist in the implementation of the partnership and task teams missions and goals.
 - Goals
 - Recommit to Task Team participation and attendance (2 votes)
 - Implementation of Task Team action items (3 votes)

- Communication!
 - Support self-determination efforts of Navajo DOT (638) (4 votes)
 - Update scheduled Quarterly Partnership Meetings with upper management
- Counties
 - Vision for Partnership

Establish “all weather” roads on the Reservations. For the Navajo Nation and BIA to streamline all related policies (road Maintenance and construction). For Navajo elected leadership and Department heads to support Navajo Nation DOT initiatives and partnerships. AND to develop procedures that encourage shorter timelines!
 - Goals
 - Continue to supporting Navajo DOT by funding Services
 - Sharing Resources (8 votes)
 - Road yards - construct New Road Yards (2) and share existing yards
 - Purchasing Agreements with Navajo Nation
 - Have Navajo Nation make available their Natural Resources and share it for Road Maintenance and Construction (Gravel and Water) (8 votes)
 - Provide technical assistance to the Nation for all planning and necessary pre-clearance (2 votes)
 - Develop Emergency Response Plan (snow removal and washouts) (2 votes)
 - Get policy Makers involved in planning process for higher success
- ADOT
 - Visions for Partnership

To improve transportation facilities and service on the reservation through better understanding, coordination and join efforts.
 - Goals
 - Transportation Planning - Integrated Planning effort (3 votes)
 - Finish what we've started, don't get bogged down w/ internal stuff
 - Support one another for enhanced funding (4 votes)
 - Gain a better understanding of partners processes (roles/limitations) (2 votes)
 - Clearly articulate the benefits of the partnership from all sides(1 vote)
- Navajo DOT
 - Visions for Partnerships

Transition partnership leadership from ADOT to Navajo DOT to harness additional transportation resources internal and external to Navajo Nation. Navajo Nation must take a much more assertive approach to addressing it's own needs and challenges by building on relationships of current partnership family.
 - Goals
 - To take the leadership position in the partnership
 - To expand partnership with Hopi
 - Partner on ROW
 - Develop future direct funding sources
 - Standard MOU agreements (templates)

Action Items

#	Topic	Steps	By Whom	By When	Update
23	Animals in the ROW	Enforcement needs to be looked into—who's responsible? Need to document Enforcement issue	AIR Team	Dec 2008	
24	Animals in the ROW	Develop a catchy slogan for their education efforts	All	Dec 2008	
25	Animals in the ROW	Add Franklin Castillo as a new ROW task team member	Franklin	Now!	
26	Animals in the ROW	Research Case Law Navajo DOT	AIR Team	Dec 2008	
27	Request participation from the Navajo and Hopi Nations	Send a letter to Navajo Nation and Hopi requesting participation for Mass Evacuation Plan	Bill Tait	Sept.1 2008	
28	Add Task Team Members	Add a member to the task team from Navajo Nation Office of Emergency Management.	Tom Platero	Aug.1 2008	
29	Research	Research good Samaritan Act	Emergency TT	October 9th	
30	Research	Confirm how the state deals with large/small emergency responses	Emergency TT	October 9th	
31	Resource TT – New Members	Add a New Resource Task Team member from Navajo Nation DNR – like Howard Draper	Tom Platero	Aug.1 2008	
32	Process TT – New Members	New Members – Gene Martinez, Tom Platero and Ermalinda Gene	Process TT	Aug.1 2008	
33	Finish Issue Resolution Circle	Issue Resolution Circle Contacts – all Task Teams are asked to send the names of their contacts to Evonne for the next meeting – to complete the issue resolution circle.	All	October 9th	

Completed

#	Topic	Steps	By Whom	By When	Update
1	MOA	Contact Franklin re: his draft and check on MOA status; and report back to Franklin	Lynn	Mid July	Will meet prior to next meeting
3	Storyboard	Use storyboard for presentation during Navajo Nation conference in Albuquerque (July 24-26th); and Ermalinda to send a picture	Geri	By end of June	
4	Grazing	Identify ADOT Holbrook person to	Lynn	June 21	

	Committee	attend June 17th Grazing Committees Issue Meeting	and Kee		
5	ROW Task Team	Schedule July date to meet re: Vendors in ROW (John Harper) and Animals in ROW (Lynn Johnson)	Geri and Rusty's		April Meeting
6	Grazing Committee Mtg	Attend Grazing Committee Meeting	Myra (Rusty)	June 27th	
7	RSA Training	Contact Karla Petty re: scheduling training	Geri	Aug. 1st	Completed
8	Safety Training	Contact Harold Riley re: Design training and training re: Safety	Karla	Mid July	Completed
9	Partnership History	Send the Partnership History & Background to the Counties	Myra (Rusty)	By end of June	
10	Task Team Presentations	Prepare to present task team update to steering committee meetings	All task teams	Prep for Sept. 27th meeting	
11	Emergency Task Team	Approach Hopi re: Emergency Task Team	Chuck	June 22nd	
12	Resource Task Team	Approach Hopi re: Resource Task Team	Rusty	June 22nd	
13	Emergency Task Team	Schedule/Coordinate Emergency Task Team to include identified potential members	Chuck	By end of July	
14	Training Task Team	Schedule & coordinate Training Task Team	Ed	By Aug. 1st	
15	Process Task Team	Schedule & Coordinate ROW Process Team	Myra	Aug. 1st	
16	Expanded Charter	Take Charter to Don and ask if he will take it to ADOPT graphics to expand charter with 3 new partner groups on charter to include 3 counties (no signatures)	Jim	July	Will work with Jim to complete
17	Expanded Charter	Send watermark logos to Jim Zumph	Tim & Leo	By end of month	See above
18	Task Team Updates	Send updates to steering committee members to review, so they are prepared to respond during the meeting	All Task Team leads	One week before the quarterly meeting	
19	Letterhead	Create a letterhead for the team to send communications on.	Rusty/Heidi	January 1	April Meeting
20	List of Training Offered NDOT	Tom will forward list of training offered by NDOT to the entire team	Tom P.	When available	
21	Road Safety Training	Update provided after the March 11th meeting with Karla Petty and Harold on Training for Road Safety Assessment	Karla Petty	When available	
22	Organization Charts from each group	Send organization charts to Heidi for placement on the web and distribution. Charts must include: <input type="checkbox"/> Contact information <input type="checkbox"/> Organization Charts <input type="checkbox"/> Department Leaders <input type="checkbox"/> Process Chart	ALL	April Meeting	