

San Carlos Apache Tribe / White Mountain Apache Tribe Transportation Partnership Steering Committee Notes

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 27, 2016

9 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Apache Gold Conference Center
San Carlos, Arizona

MEETING PURPOSE:

- Update partnership charter and membership roster
- Update partnership goals

Attendees:

Andre Stevens, WMAT Transit
Bill Harmon, ADOT
Charlene Mullis, ADOT
Danny Shurter, Navajo county
Don Sneed, ADOT
Gina Salinas on behalf of Kathy Borquez, Pinal County
Hugh Moses, SCAT DOT
Jason Pike, ADOT
John Marcanti, Gila County
Mary Tapija, SCAT DOT
Myra Rothman, ADOT
Rick Powers, Jacobs
Tara Chief, WMAT DOT

Facilitators:

Bonnie Opie and Linda Ritter



Welcome

Bonnie Opie welcomed everyone and informed them that Dianne Kresich will not be able to facilitate the partnership meetings in the future. Her job duties have changed and she will no longer have time. Bonnie introduced Linda Ritter who will be assuming the role of facilitator for the partnership. Bonnie and Linda will both facilitate the meeting today and Linda will take over after this meeting.

Hugh Moses gave the welcoming invocation, and the participants introduced themselves.

Review of 2015 Annual Meeting

What worked well?

It is important to provide a clear update/report to our public officials regarding our efforts and progress. We are accountable to them. In the past, our reports were too detailed and lengthy. We are now becoming more focused in our partnering efforts, and this focus will help us to achieve the goals that we establish.

What are some opportunities for improvement?

- We need to have stakeholders, such as tribal police and DPS attend, so we can understand each other's needs and efforts for better coordination.
- We should have an overview and appreciation of funding sources.
- There needs to be good coordination with zoning and planning.
- Because elected officials typically only stay for a short time in the morning it is important that the topics they need to be present for are covered at the beginning of the agenda.
- The annual meeting should be used to share the successes of the partnership with leadership and also to ask leadership for direction regarding the focus of the partnership over the next year.

What will the focus be for the 2016 annual meeting?

It is important to revisit the existing goals and see how they were addressed and what kind of progress was made. We need to document the goals that have been achieved, discuss the opportunity to develop new goals once existing goals are achieved, and keep this discussion updated and documented. If we have not made substantial progress to report for the annual meeting tentatively scheduled for October, we may want to consider scheduling the annual meeting in 2017.

Charter

The draft charter was presented to the attendees with the suggestion of a logo for the partnership rather than individual logos for each agency. Six logo options were shared with the group. It was agreed that a partnership logo was desired and the logo with the mountains and sun was a good start. They attendees agreed to add snowcapped mountains, a lake and a pine tree on one side to capture the terrain of the WMAT area and to make the road look like a highway. These changes will be incorporated and presented for approval at the July meeting. The attendees agreed to have the charter signed at the annual meeting. Following is the language for the charter:

Charter

Provide a forum for partnership members to strengthen working relationships, identify transportation concerns and work collaboratively to address those concerns.

Partnership Guiding Principles

Be patient
Seek to understand
Cooperate and collaborate to achieve goals
Provide timely feedback
Make timely decisions
Attend meetings and participate in discussions
Be open and honest
Work to develop trust and respect
Be committed to the partnership and members
Disseminate accurate information
Use agreed-upon processes to resolve issues
Listen to understand

Escalation Ladder

The issue escalation ladder was reviewed and the group began the process of updating the information. This proved to be more complicated than anticipated and it was agreed that each agency would review the ladder and provide information to Linda Ritter so that the members could review it again in July.

Partnering Evaluation Program (PEP)

The group agreed to complete their PEP at the July meeting each year and then to review the results at the annual meeting.

Goals Implementation Plan

The goal implementation plan was reviewed and action items were added. The document will be posted on the AZ Tribal Transportation website with these notes. <http://www.aztribaltransportation.org/sca/index.asp>

Roundtable – Partner updates

Pinal County – Currently there are two regional RTA proposed projects and they are working with CAG. These have been identified as regionally significant and major routes. They are seeking public input and comments.

Gila County – The Gila Industrial Authority has partnered with several entities for a promise zone designation. They should know by July if they are successful. This designation would allow them extra points on the application for TIGER grants.

SCAT DOT – The Route 6 project in heart of San Carlos has been funded but construction has not started. There is also an ADOT safety project on Route 6. A fuel farm is being constructed at the airport in San Carlos.

ADOT Multimodal Planning – The statewide Long Range Transportation Plan is being updated by ADOT MPD. Public meetings are being held to gain input from jurisdictions regarding how funding is targeted and hear concerns regarding the next five years. All tribal leaders were invited to participate. The ITCA is working on developing a training workshop for tribal PD on completing the crash data form.

Navajo County – Staff is working with WMAT and BIA on two routes. Both are in Gila County. Route 12 in Cibique and Route 9 both have issues that Navajo County will help with repairs for. They also help with equipment maintenance.

SCAT Transit – Nine routes are going now and they are working on one more that will begin when the new casino is completed. The transit system is nearing self-sufficiency.

ADOT Right of Way – They are working on a project on US 70 in the Bylas area as a safety corridor with pedestrian crossings. Construction should start next year.

WMAT DOT – Tara Chief was hired in March as the DOT Director. They are partnering on two projects with ADOT. ADOT will administer these projects that are funded by BIA. One is a frontage road and the other is three pedestrian crossings. Tara has been working with PD on how they can develop a better crash data system. Eventually they may go to Tracs System. For now they are working on using the Arizona form and getting tribal council to agree to release the information. The transit manager position will be vacant until they get funding in place to advertise it again. The DOT is working with the game rangers regarding the forest roads and fatalities that have occurred to collect the crash data from those accidents.

ADOT – Bill Harmon thanked San Carlos for hosting the meeting and also thanked Andre for his public service and wished him good luck since this is his last meeting. Bill talked about how important it was that BIA was contributing money to the three pedestrian crossings in White Mountain. Working together to pool funding will move projects along much quicker than working with limited funds. This can also include providing equipment and other resources. ADOT will also partner with PD to complete joint file reviews to look for accidents that can help justify safety funding. The US 70 Bylas safety improvement project will advertise in March 2017. The US 60 passing lanes west of Peridot will kick off this summer. The US 60 project near Bashas is still under design. This project is funded by safety funds but the budget is short for the scope of work. If another group can contribute funding that may move it forward. The Apache Burger area doesn't show sufficient accident data to support safety improvements. That may be an avenue to partner to get the projects moved forward.

Several safety projects were submitted for nominations. One was in the Apache Gold Casino area. If it is awarded it may be beneficial to include the airport.

The Federal Scenic Highway grant project for an interpretative pathway on Mount Graham will have a space for tribal kiosks or displays. If the tribes are interested they can contact Bill.

ADOT has been cleaning up the roadway, mowing, and removing brush. Along with these it is removing roadside memorials that are in the right of way. Bill apologized to those who are upset about this. He hoped that

everyone would understand the memorials are being removed for two reasons, one so no one gets injured while they are at the memorial and another because they could be dangerous if someone hits the memorial.

Next meeting

The next Steering Committee meeting will be held on July 27, 2016 and hosted by WMAT tentatively at the HonDah casino.

The July meeting agenda will include:

- Escalation Ladder update
- Finalization of the logo and charter
- Update of the goals
- PEP
- Planning for the annual meeting

Action Items to be completed by steering committee members prior to the July meeting:

- Linda will send a list of invitees from the prior annual meeting to each person for updates.
- Each person will update the list for their agency and return it to Linda prior to the July meeting.

The Steering Committee meeting concluded with a benediction by Andre Stevens.

Summary of Participant Meeting Evaluation

Scores are based on 12 evaluations. Comments are taken from the evaluation forms exactly as written.

1. Rate how valuable this workshop is for you. 4.17 out of 5

What about this workshop was most valuable to you?

- Meeting new people.
- Meeting all the partners and needs to have relationships.
- The concerns and goals discussed. Great topics.
- The passing of information between the partnership.
- Networking/meeting partners.
- Roundtable discussion.
- Networking and learning about each tribal community SCAT and WMAT. I'm a new attendant of the partnership and much for me to contribute answers and talking or getting a lot of information.
- Sharing ideas/suggestions to build on.
- Network.

2. What would have improved this workshop?

- Provide handouts of goals.
- Has a good structure, maybe just more communication between meetings.
- Hope FHWA, Marvin Mull, can attend next meeting.
- Attendance by all partners.
- Good meeting – nothing

3. How do you rate the facilitator? 4.33 out of 5
 - Thanks Bonnie and Linda.
 - Great job.
 - Bonnie was great, and so was Linda.
 - Great job of collaboration with the tribe and ADOT.
 - Efficient and streamlined – great job!
 - Good keeping the committee on task.
 - Very professional presentation.
 - Kept us focused and moving ahead.

4. How do you rate the speaker(s)? 4.40 out of 5
 - N/A – Group discussion was good.
 - Great.
 - Kept the meeting moving.
 - Stayed on topic.
 - Clearly communicates information and provides effective feedback.
 - Very understandable instruction and procedures explained.

5. How do you rate the effectiveness of the team? 4.5 out of 5
 - Great dynamics.
 - Concerns and goals are being addressed.
 - Very comfortable atmosphere.

6. What other comments or suggestions do you have?
 - Keep up the good work!
 - Thanks Linda for taking on facilitation for the partnership.
 - My first meeting, but seems committee is accomplishing goals/actions as assigned /partners are comfortable with each other.
 - N/A – Sorry to be late to the meeting.