

Hopi & Arizona Department of Transportation Partnership Steering Committee Workshop Meeting Minutes

Thursday August 15, 2019
 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM
 ADOT Training Facility
 1901 S. Milton Road
 Flagstaff, AZ 86001



Facilitator: Nichole Jenks

Today Hopi Department of Transportation (HDOT) and the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) as well as other Partnership Steering Committee members met at the ADOT Training Facility in Flagstaff. The 14 attendees were from HDOT, Hopi Tribe, ADOT, Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Northern Arizona Council of Governments (NACOG) and Navajo County. The meeting opened with a prayer, facility safety and committee member introductions.

Below is the sign in sheet* from those who attended today. There were no call-in attendees.

Name	Title	Organization	Email / Phone No.
Mike Lomayaktewa	Hopi Department of Transportation (HDOT) Director	Hopi Tribe	mlomayaktewa@hopi.nsn.us Cell: 928.313.2711
Jollette Arrieta	Office Manager	Hopi Tribe	Jarrieta@hopi.nsn.us Office: 928.734.3183
Matt Moul	Northeast District Engineer	ADOT	Mmoul@azdot.gov
Ermalinda Gene	Tribal Planning Program Manager	ADOT	EGene@azdot.gov
Michael Carter	Partnering Administrator	ADOT	MCarter@azdot.gov Office: 602.712.8069
Brad Burgess	Program Administrator	ADOT	BBurgess@azdot.gov 602.712.7399
Jason James	Transportation Planner	Northern Arizona Council of Government (NACOG)	jjames@nacog.org Cell: 928.925.8413
Romare Truly,	Tribal Liaison	FHWA	Romare.Truely@dot.gov Office: 602.382.8978
Ammon Heier	Transportation Engineer	FHWA	Ammon.Heier@dot.gov Cell: 801.885.0833
Bill Bess	County Engineer	Navajo County	bill.bess@navajocountyaz.gov Cell: 928.205.3503
Miles Begay	Engineer in Training (EIT), Tribal Transportation Manager	Navajo County	miles.begay@navajocountyaz.gov Cell: 928.637.5949

Susan Webber, P.E.	Area Engineer	FHWA	Susan.Webber@dot.gov Office: 602.382.8972
Velyjha Southern	Community Planner	FHWA	Velyjha.Southern@dot.gov
Donovan Gomez	Transit Administrator Hopi Tribe	Hopi Senom Transit	Dgomez@hopi.nsn.us 928.734.3231

*Attached is a scanned copy of the physical sign in sheet with attendee's signatures.

The members discussed action items identified at the March 20, 2019 meeting held in Kykotsmovi Village. There were four (4) specific goals which were reported on by HDOT and other accountable parties. Each goal report included a status report, action items, challenges and possible solutions.

1. Identify a maintenance facility location on the Hopi Reservation:

HDOT is currently in need of a maintenance facility to house both personnel and equipment.

At this time, administrative staff is located in the Kykotsmovi office and road maintenance staff is located in Keams Canyon. HDOT would like to find a location within District 6 due to favorable infrastructure and available utilities. HDOT is looking for clan/village leader, documented approval. Michael Lomayaktewa, HDOT Director, gave the group an update of location details, features, available infrastructure and current communications with community members as noted below.

Location	Status Report	Action Items	Challenges/Solutions
Spider Mound: 2 potential locations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Highest probability of success due to working with an independent governing board/chapter separated from the Hopi Tribe Michael L. met with the Community Service Organizer Would require entering into an agreement with HDOT 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Michael L. will follow up with the board in progressive meetings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Is there sufficient water and power (utilities) to support the facility? No funding to pull utilities What type of environmental clearances is required? Would need to look at the lease to finalize any agreements
First Mesa Consolidated Village (FMCV)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continued discussion regarding available location Offering a lease if HDOT decides to move to this location Continued talks with FMCV and Tribal Council 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Michael L. will continue talks with leadership if the location will work 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is just the land Current site of other facilities (school, health facility) Location may not be large enough to support a maintenance yard and offices
Tawaovi Master Plan Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Possible use is under review by the committee 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Michael L. will follow up with committee 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lack of infrastructure

Winslow Yard in Navajo County	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not a viable location 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remove from the list of possible locations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extremely deteriorated building • Extensive repair/demo cost • Distance is a challenging factor
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There were no new locations to consider. HDOT has a funding source if an available location is identified. Other challenges identified when considering a location are distance (Peabody Coal Mine area is very far in distance), scattered personnel and equipment, social and political influences, clans often have ownership of the land, zoning restrictions or lack of zoning and Hopi Ordinance 55 which imparts additional environmental considerations.

Navajo County can provide site topo mapping and assist with environmental clearances on identified locations. Bill Bess, Navajo County Engineer, is the contact.

2. State Route 264:

State Route (SR) 264 traverses most of the villages on the Hopi Reservation covering approximately 50 miles. The road terrain is hilly, with many curves. A Road Safety Audit (RSA) revealed numerous fatalities and overall lack of law enforcement on this stretch of road. There are minimal shoulders. The pavement is in poor condition with significant surface deterioration. This road becomes very heavily traveled with tourist and commercial vehicles when SR 89 or Interstate 40 is shut down. In pull outs along the road, school buses are getting stuck and there have been reports of pedestrian and vehicle near misses along the bus stops.

Project	Status Report	Action Items	Challenges/Solutions
SR 264 street lighting project	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Design FY21 with Construction in FY22 • SR264 speed zones • Recent crashes near junction 87 & 264 east of Second Mesa to First Mesa 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Matt M. will discuss a plan of action with the ADOT Traffic Engineer 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) funds may be available • Council supports the project
SR 264 Road Maintenance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Crack seal work scheduled for FY20 • Mowing schedules/maps • Education regarding vegetation management • Winter Readiness Meeting with local DOT, counties & tribes • Navajo County can provide funds for maintenance or special project with Board of Supervisor approval via IGA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Matt M. and Ermalinda G. to provide manuals for Winter Readiness Meetings • Matt M. provided update to Michael L. on upcoming projects. 11-14-2019 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limited personnel for maintenance efforts • Mowing and other maintenance issues should be reported directly to the District Engineers Office • ADOT can only work within the State Highway right-of-way (ROW)

AZ511	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provides notice of projects/work that may impact traffic on US or State Highways • For daily or weekly notice of local work that may impact traffic contact Keams Canyon Maintenance Yard. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brad B. provided AZ511 information and links to access the app with instructions (See “Helpful Links” on the last page) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jerry McCoy is the current ADOT Community Relations contact • Does Hopi (HDOT) have a Community Relations contact person?
Bus Pull Outs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Schools and public transit use the same pull out locations • Recent Educational Ordinance was passed and they will be looking at the safest area for bus pull outs • A new person will be on board next week with HDOT to assist • ADOT Traffic Engineer has been involved • Navajo County may provide assistance with HSIP funds 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Miles B. will work thru Michael L. to reach out and work with the schools • Miles B. to consult with ADOT DE Matt M. as needed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pull outs are not formally recognized by ADOT • Most of SR264 does not have shoulders which impact vehicle damage and public safety • Unclear as to secured ROW and approved clearances
State Transportation Board (STB) Meetings	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Michael L. attended the April 12, 2019 STB meeting in Flagstaff • Will make an effort to attend more meetings • NACOG submitted comments on behalf of Hopi for recommended projects • Call for projects in May of each year • Brad B. provided AZ511 information and app instructions (See attached document) • Click here for STB web page • STB Web Page: Aztransportationboard.gov 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Michael L. will provide notice to tribal leadership as to scheduled meetings, what resources are available and the importance of attending • Tribal liaison to present information to tribe on STB processes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consideration of priorities of tribal members, leadership, multiple boards and committees • Awareness of meeting locations and preparedness to attend • Lack of data (crash data, Road Safety Audit) to support projects

3. Reduce heavy traffic on SR 87:

SR 87 runs north from I-40, through the Navajo Indian Reservation and approximately the last 18 miles is located on the Hopi Reservation. This stretch of road is at a lower elevation, has a straighter alignment and the pavement is in better condition than SR 264. HDOT would like to improve the communications between HDOT and ADOT Keams Canyon Maintenance facility. HDOT is concerned with commercial truck traffic, specifically over-size/over-weight (OS/OW) vehicles trying to avoid enforcement regulations. ADOT staff is working with Enforcement Compliance Division (ECD) on setting up temporary mobile weigh stations. Hopi Tribe has conducted a Road Safety Audit on SR 87. Hopi, working through NACOG will complete a street light project at SR 87 and the Hopi Cultural Center.

Project	Status Report	Action Items	Challenges/Solutions
Mobile Weigh Stations on SR87	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Event was well organized with citations issued and 2 trucks taken out of service Tribal Council Members witnessed the enforcement activities with positive feedback Tribal Council would like to know more details/results of event Planning a future evening event 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ADOT PIO, Jerry McCoy can provide details/result of event Michael L. will follow up with Hopi Law Enforcement on obtaining Commercial Vehicle Safety Alliance (CVSA) Certification in order to conduct stops 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ADOT Enforcement along with Hopi Law Enforcement is committed to enforcing compliance Committed to keeping over-weight and HazMat trucks off roads Tribal Council must adopt Federal Standards to comply with CVSA standards
Road Safety Audit (RSA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dorma S., Executive Director for Programs for Tribes was going to present the RSA to Tribal Council for review Present RSA specific to SR87 and H15 due to fatalities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Michael L. will follow upon RSA presented to Tribal Council with Dorma S. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> MPD is now reviewing all Tribal RSA's with recommendations being completed RSA last year enabled Navajo County to purchase and replace old signs with new retroreflective signs (STOP sign ahead) with HURF = \$30K+/-
DPS Recruit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No updates currently 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nichole J. Follow up with DPS on current opportunities and forward to Michael L. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ideal recruit is someone who lives on the Hopi Reservation

4. Recruit staff to gather data and establish a safety program :

HDOT's goal for 2019 is to recruit a staff member to gather data and establish a safety program. Crash data is necessary when applying for some funding sources, specifically Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) funds.

This goal has been met for 2019. Michael L. will keep the team updated on the next steps towards adopting TrACS and the use of the software.

Project	Status Report	Action Items	Challenges/Solutions
Recruit staff to gather data and establish a safety program	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Safety Coordinator has been hired Gregory Sehongva will be collecting data, updating the Strategic Safety Plan Currently worked for the Hopi Dept. of Human and Health Services Will be attending TrACS training next week Experienced in grant writing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Gregory to recommend data collection information to law and emergency services Ermalinda G. Follow up with Tim Jordan on presenting information on TrACS at Navajo Nation Michael L. to share with Tribal Council changes to agreement language with the state regarding TrACS and data collection 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This goal has been met for 2019 9.26.2019: Per Ermalinda Gene: I am happy to report that Hopi DOT personnel and Law Enforcement attended TraCS Demonstration at Navajo DOT Complex on Thursday, September 12, 2019.

Next Meeting Agenda Item (New):

Project	Action Items
1. Ordinance 55 – Interdisciplinary Program under Natural Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Michael L. will reach out to find the right people who have knowledge of the documents history or how the initial document came to be and ask if they would consider presenting information at the next meeting Ordinance 55 adds additional requirements above the federal requirements (i.e. ROW environmental clearances have additional conditions implemented by the tribe under this ordinance) 30 page document – Identify the chapter or section that creates the greatest challenge to transportation/building projects FHWA has training available on aligning the ROW standards

<p>2. How can Tribal Liaisons be more valuable?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to review Tribal RSA's and make recommendations for prioritizing projects • Continue good dialog with tribal representatives • Understand specific Hopi challenges • Clearly identify additional resources • Reduce the "red tape" • Include in the quarterly ROW meetings with Navajo DOT
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Parking Lot of Ideas & Questions:

These items were discussed at the meeting and were not part of the agenda. They may be considered future talking points or agenda items at the discretion of the HDOT director or steering committee member.

- Donovan Gomez, Transit Administrator, Hopi Senom Transit: Community Transportation Association of America (CTAA) provides planning assistance. There has been an increase in transit need but a reduction in funding to the tribe. Mr. Gomez has submitted a USDA Rural Passenger Technical Assistance Grant to improve transportation services and economic development to the tribe.
- Closing of Peabody Mine, Cholla Power Plant and the Navajo Generating Station: The committee discussed several impacts including a reduction in sales tax collected, increased transit demands to relocate workers and Navajo County has had financial impacts to the County General Fund.
- Navajo County Sheriff Patrol: Deputy Simonson, who resides in Pinion, has been assigned to patrol on "tribal lands" and assist as needed the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), Navajo County law enforcement and Hopi law enforcement.
- Committee members suggested inviting other agencies including Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), Department of Public Safety (DPS) and ADOT ROW Specialist, Elisabett Vargas. BIA is represented by Wendell Honanie, BIA Hopi Agency, but was not present at today's meeting. I do have a contact for DPS if you would like me to include them in future meeting invites. I will defer to the committee members as to further guidance of adding people to the invitation list.

Next Meeting Date: NEW DATE

January 16, 2020

9 AM to 3 PM

ADOT Training Facility

1959 S. Woodlands Village Dr. Suite B

Navajo Bridge Conference Room

Flagstaff, AZ 86001

Helpful Links:

- ADOT District Contact Information: [ADOT District Contacts](#)
- For more information on Tribal Transportation: [AZTribalTransportation.org](#)
- For more information on Arizona State Transportation Board: <http://aztransportationboard.gov/>
- For more information on AZ511 Traffic Impact Notices:
[Click here for the AZ511 website](#) or download the app from your mobile device.
For blogs on how to sign up for a personalized AZ511.gov account:
<https://www.azdot.gov/media/blog/posts/2019/03/18/how-to-get-the-most-of-the-new-az511-website>
<https://www.azdot.gov/media/blog/posts/2019/04/22/set-up-timely-alerts-on-my-az511>
For more information on the AZ511 app for smart phones:
<https://www.az511.gov/about/mobileapp>
<https://www.azdot.gov/mobile/media/news/2019/04/18/adot-s-free-az-511-app-helps-you-plan-your-route-and-save-time>

Report prepared:
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