

**Summary notes for 2018 Rural Transportation Summit
First Tribal Leadership Meeting
October 24, 2018**



Left to Right: Greg Byres, ADOT MPD Director; Jesse Thompson, State Transportation Board Member; J. Deal Begay, Jr, Cocopah Vice-Chairman; Gabriel Lopez, Ak-Chin Vice-Chairman; Russell Begaye, Navajo Nation President; Brian Golding, Quechan Indian Tribe EDA Director; Michael Lomayaktewa, Hopi Tribe DOT Director; Arlando Teller, Navajo DOT Deputy Director; Jesse Garza, Colorado River Indian Tribes Planner; Toni Flores, Colorado River Indian Tribes Attorney

Tribal Leaders and representatives

Ak-Chin Vice-Chairman, Gabriel Lopez
 CRIT Planner, Jesse Garza
 Hopi Tribe Council Member, Melsa Yowytewa
 Hualapai Tribe, Philip Wisely
 Navajo Nation President, Russell Begaye
 San Juan Southern Paiute, Chuck Howe

Cocopah Vice-Chairman, J. Deal Begay, Jr.
 CRIT Attorney, Toni Flores
 Hopi DOT Director, Michael Lomayaktewa
 Kaibab Band of Paiute, Elizabeth Whitlock
 Navajo DOT Deputy Director, Arlando Teller
 San Juan Southern Paiute, Jack Conovaloff

State Transportation Board Members (past and current)

Deanna Beaver, Past State Board Chairwoman
 Jesse Thompson, State Board Member
 Arlando Teller, Past State Board Member

Elected Officials

Sonny Borelli, AZ State Senate, District 5

Other Agencies

Greg Byres, ADOT MPD Director	Charla Glendening, ADOT MPD Statewide Planning Manager
Corey Foster, ADOT BECO	Rosalinda Federico, ADOT Tribal Liaison
Ermalinda Gene, ADOT Tribal Liaison	Linda Ritter, ADOT Partnering Facilitator
Michael Carter, ADOT Partnering Director	Miles Begay, Navajo County
Anthony Sarhan, FHWA	Bret Anderson, ADOT STIP Manager
Romare Truely, FHWA	

Moderator, Charla Glendening opened meeting

Greg Byres welcomed everyone to First Tribal Leadership meeting

Mike Lomayaktewa, Hopi DOT Director delivered the invocation

Tribal leaders introduced themselves

Ermalinda Gene presented on current Tribal outreach efforts and provided a summary of the ADOT Annual Tribal report which was submitted to the Governor’s office on October 1, 2018.

Tribal Consultation policy and Report can be found at www.aztribaltransportation.org

State Transportation Board insight and recommendations from past and current members:

Jesse Thompson (current), Deanna Beaver (past chairwoman), and Arlando Teller (past)

All the speakers stressed the importance of tribal members attending meetings and participating at the meeting by filling out a speaker card in order to get their voice heard. The speakers also encouraged Tribal Members to become a State Transportation Board Member. In 2023 a State Board position in Northeast Arizona, Coconino County will be available. The Board Members also encouraged Tribal Members to contact the ADOT District Engineers to develop partnerships and provide information regarding infrastructure and safety needs. Other areas of concern mentioned by the Board Members included: HURF Sweeps; Responsiveness in Emergencies; and School Bus Routes.

Tribal Leadership Roundtable Discussion:

Arlando Teller, Navajo Department of Transportation Deputy Director

- Advocacy and dialogue are important
- Partnering works
- Navajo is interested in a FAA/Aeronautics Symposium to address how to receive and apply for grants, explore possibility of a Western Region Aeronautics Fund and discuss best practices related to Airport Master Plans
- The Navajo Nation participated in a “Rolling weigh station program” on state routes within the Navajo Reservation. This was a pilot program, but it had immediate results. The semi-trucks will use alternative routes to avoid permanent weigh stations and cause damage to roads not designed to handle their weight.

Hopi Tribe – Michael Lomayaktewa, Hopi DOT Director

- Tribal transportation programs only have enough for maintenance, not enough for projects:
What can we do in our boundaries?
- Need to consider how tribal routes provide a valuable resource to our State
- Interested in discussing Aviation Policies
- Hopi invites the State Transportation Board to come to the Hopi Reservation for future meeting

Navajo Nation President, Russell Begaye

- Would like to see State adopt a standard of not waiving sovereign immunity and instead resolving disputes by arbitration as in the Navajo Nation AHCCCS agreement.
- Bus routes – out of 780 miles, 535 are inaccessible in snowstorms and inclement weather
- Technology – gravel instead of paving (\$3 million a mile)
- ADOT not observing local policies related to transport of hazardous materials across the Navajo Nation
- Railroad – Navajo Nation has a good relationship with BNSF railways
- Bridges need to be replaced, Navajo Nation is requesting assistance from the State and FHWA
- Navajo Nation would like to develop a regional airport in partnership with Hopi
- Right of Ways – would like Senate/Congress to give ROW authority to Tribes (now it resides with BIA)
- Categorical Exclusion could be determined by Tribe a certain distance from Right of way
- State and Federal Fiscal Years are not aligned, creating a 3 month lag time
- Impact Aid – would like to see Fuel Excise Tax and/or Casino revenues comeback to Navajo Nation for school transportation Or other infrastructure needs
- Make arrangements to use funding for roads as matching funds if necessary

Cocopah Vice-Chairman, J. Deal Begay, Jr.

- Cocopah works with the YMPO and the Quechan Tribe as part of the organization, but tribes have not been very successful competing against other YMPO members for funding
- Cocopah roll over Tribal Transportation funding for several years in order to fund a project
- Their needs are bridges and paving - When a bridge is closed it results in long detours
- Partnered with the Inter-Tribal Council of Arizona (ITCA) on Highway 95 and found many truck violations including lack of brakes and transport of hazardous material
- Cocopah partners with DPA and fire department, but needs funding to train officers

San Juan Southern Paiute Tribe – Chuck Howe, representing tribe

- Main issue is access from US89 to tribal land, there are 5 bus stops along route and speed limit is too high
- The tribal route in the Hidden Springs cannot be crossed during storms

Ak-Chin Vice-Chairman, Gabriel Lopez

- Maintenance of state routes (SR 347 and 238) on reservation need to be addressed. In the recent storms, since dikes were blocked by landscape debris the storm water crested and exposed the tribes' utility lines (sewer and fiber optic). This area needs to be cleaned; the tribe has made a request to ADOT before. This exposes risk to the traveling public.
- Closure of SR 238 hurts the community economy when employees can't get to work and the public cannot access to the Golf Course Restaurant
- Request to ADOT to work together to address these issues among agencies

Philip Wisely, Hualapai Tribe

- Pearce Ferry Road – 1600 vehicle a day, 1300 traveling to Sky Walk resulting in accidents – move funding from I-11 to fund Hwy 93
- Highway 66, Seligman to Peach Springs narrow or no shoulders creating safety issue for bicyclist
- Truck traffic on Hwy 66 is problematic due to weight – would like to see more enforcement
- The noise from the railroad that goes through Peach Springs is very loud. The hotel gives earplugs for this reason. Has ADOT considered grade separated crossing?

Colorado River Indian Tribe, Jesse Garza, Planner

- ADOT not corresponding or communicating on TERO issues, this is important to the Tribe. Mr. Garza gave a recent example where the contractor did not pay TERO fees or comply with any requests. ADOT needs to make sure contractors are aware of TERO and Environmental requirements.
- Request for ADOT to contact Tribe on all projects

Elizabeth Whitlock, Engineer representing Kaibab Paiute Tribe

- Tribe is in need of equipment, signing and striping

Recommendation from Ermalinda Gene, ADOT Tribal Liaison

Register for Federal surplus equipment, free to Tribes. For newer equipment check site on a regular basis.

Recommendation by Greg Byres, MPD Director

Check with ADOT District regarding Striping equipment

Recommendation by Jesse Thompson, State Board Member

Suggested working with Counties on equipment sharing

Quechan Tribe, Brian Golding Economic Development Administration Director

- ADOT needs to do some Tribal outreach, especially in procurement
- ADOT needs TERO outreach and monitoring

- All bidders need to know detail in advance – helps with no change orders
- Those bidding should reach out to Tribal owned businesses

Greg Byres, ADOT MPD Director

Greg acknowledged all comments and concerns, stating that some issues are currently being addressed and ADOT will look into new issues.

In conclusion, items noted in this report will be referred to appropriate personnel and added to the Tribal planners annual work plan as needed. The Tribal Consultation Policy will be updated once all Tribes in Arizona are consulted. The overall consensus from the participants was that this was a worthwhile event and they would like to see it continue on an annual basis.

Please refer questions regarding this report to:

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