

**WHITE MOUNTAIN APACHE TRIBE CONSULTATION SESSION**  
**MEETING SUMMARY NOTES**  
 MONDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2022  
 10:00 AM TO 11:30 AM

**MEETING ATTENDEES**

- LaReesa Sanchez, *DOT Director, White Mountain Apache Tribe (WMAT)*
- Jason James, *L RTP Project Manager, Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) MPD*
- Don Sneed, *Planning Program Manager/Tribal Liaison, ADOT MPD*
- Paula Brown, *Planning Program Manager/Tribal Liaison, ADOT MPD*
- Myrna Bondoc, *Regional Transportation Planner, ADOT*
- Scott Omer, *WSP*
- Chris Joannes, *Kimley-Horn (KH)*
- Kristen Faltz, *KH*

**1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION**

Don Sneed welcomed attendees and introduced the Project Team. It was noted that Al Brooks and Kasey Velasquez from WMAT were not in attendance.

**2. P2P OVERVIEW**

Jason James provided an overview of ADOT’s performance-based Planning-to-Programming (P2P) process, which is used to prioritize projects on the state highway system. He explained that performance-based planning is federal law and is also required by State statute.

- Jason shared a flowchart that provided an overview of the annual P2P timeline. P2P starts with the planning process, which includes project nominations and prioritization. Following prioritization, the top performing projects are added to the 5-year program following State Transportation Board approval.
- Jason provided a detailed explanation of P2P scoring for pavement preservation, bridge preservation, modernization, and expansion projects, as well as annual investment target amounts. He also provided a breakdown of the scoring percentages for technical, district, and policy components.
- He mentioned that a Tribe can nominate projects by submitting them directly to him, through the ADOT District Engineer/Administrator, or the Tribe’s regional council of governments (COG) or metropolitan planning organization (MPO). Project nominations need to be supported by data and are scored based on how well they meet the P2P scoring criteria.
- Don stated that to get more involved in the P2P process, a WMAT representative can meet with the appropriate ADOT District Engineer(s).
  - Jason stated that project nominations occur in March, where WMAT can coordinate with the District Engineer to ensure WMAT’s priority projects are included in P2P if they meet the criteria for the program.
  - Don stated that the tribe can also provide input by consulting with the applicable MPO or COG, which for WMAT are the Northern Arizona Council of Governments (NACOG) and Central Arizona Governments (CAG).

**3. LRTP OVERVIEW**

Jason provided an overview on ADOT’s LRTP and the update that is specific to this tribal outreach effort.

#### 4. WMAT PRIORITIES/COMMENTS

The Project Team led an open discussion on priorities specific to WMAT and any additional questions or comments attendees had.

- LaReesa Sanchez stated that WMAT had started their own LRTP in 2019 but she needs to confirm the status of the report. It is believed that it is still underway. She shared that WMAT is working to have more roadways turned over to the tribe from the BIA so the tribe will have more control over their transportation network.
  - Don stated that it would be helpful to determine what goals and primary recommendations are in the WMAT LRTP and determine what is impactful for ADOT.
- Jason inquired what priorities WMAT has related to transportation.
  - LaReesa stated that a priority for the Tribe is maintaining the existing roads in acceptable conditions.
    - Jason inquired if there were any roads in particular that are in need of maintenance.
      - LaReesa stated that BIA Route 12 in Cibecue, connecting to US 60, requires approximately 10 miles of reconstruction. The roadway is also a transit route.
      - LaReesa identified that lighting needs to be installed along SR 73, near Canyon Day. She confirmed that there has been a fatal crash along the roadway in the last five years.
        - Jason stated that Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) funding may be an opportunity for funding improvements.
        - Jason provided ADOT HSIP contacts:
          - Mona Aglan-Swick (maglan-swick@azdot.gov)
          - Larry Talley (ltalley@azdot.gov)
          - Kerry Wilcoxon (kwilcoxon@azdot.gov)
        - Myrna Bondoc stated that NACOG is conducting a safety plan. She recommended WMAT contact NACOG staff to ensure they are included in the discussion. She provided the following contact
          - Jenn O'Connor (joconnor@nacog.org)
- Don inquired if LaReesa has initiated any discussions with the ADOT District to discuss needs.
  - LaReesa stated that she has been in communication with the office and is aware of the projects that were previously put in place. She plans to continue that coordination.
- Jason inquired if there are any plans for new major community/economic development projects in the next five to 10 years.
  - LaReesa stated that she is not aware of any.
- Jason inquired what WMAT's relationship has been with NACOG and CAG.
  - LaReesa states that the tribe has good relations with both NACOG and CAG. She attends CAG meetings and the WMAT Transit Manager is also in contact with NACOG.
- Jason inquired if there is anything more that NACOG and CAG could do for WMAT?
  - LaReesa stated she would like to get a better understand of what NACOG and CAG can do to help the Tribe.
- Jason inquired what WMAT's relationship is with the District.
  - LaReesa stated that the relationship has been good. The District has been responsive to requests from WMAT.
- Jason inquired if WMAT oversaw determining priorities, what would ADOT's priorities be?
  - LaReesa stated that her priority would be to maintain good relationships.

- Jason shared that if WMAT staff have time, please take the upcoming survey shared by the LRTP team to provide input.
  - Paula Brown shared that NACOG has a subcommittee meeting on Wednesday, October 5, at 10:00 AM. Paula to coordinate including LaReesa to the meeting.
  - Myrna shared those priorities will also be discussed at this meeting. Jenn O'Connor can be contacted if interested.
  - Don stated that LaReesa can also attend the monthly State Transportation Board meetings where Don and Paula provide information on the monthly tribal updates. The meeting agenda and link are available online to attend virtually.

## 5. CLOSING REMARKS

The Project Team thanked LaReesa for her participation in the Consultation Session.

## 6. ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

The following links provide additional resources:

- [State Long Range Transportation Plan](#)
- [Planning to Programming Information](#)