

**PASCUA YAQUI TRIBE CONSULTATION SESSION**  
**MEETING SUMMARY NOTES**  
 TUESDAY, OCTOBER 11, 2022  
 11:00 AM TO 12:30 PM

**MEETING ATTENDEES**

- Jason Bahe, *Transportation/Construction Manager, Pascua Yaqui Tribe*
- Jason James, *L RTP Project Manager, Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) MPD*
- Paula Brown, *Planning Program Manager/Tribal Liaison, ADOT MPD*
- Don Sneed, *Planning Program Manager/Tribal Liaison, ADOT MPD*
- Kristen Faltz, *Kimley-Horn*

**1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION**

Jason James welcomed attendees and introduced the Project Team.

**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.
- Jason Bahe stated that none of the roadways within the Tribe are state roads. The closest state designated roadway is shown as Valencia Road. He inquired if Valencia Road is a state highway.
  - Don stated that Valencia Road is not a state highway. He is unsure why it was referenced as such online (i.e. Apple Maps). Don to look into and follow up.
- Jason Bahe asked if the tribe is not eligible for funding, since the tribe does not have any state roadways on the reservation.
  - Jason James stated that since the roadways within the Tribe are not on ADOT roads, they are technically not eligible for P2P funding, although any roadways providing access to the state system may have opportunity for funding.
  - Jason Bahe informed that the only roadways that connect to the state highway system are I-19 to the east, Ajo Highway, and a connection to SR-86 on the west side of the reservation. Valencia Road is the main roadway connecting the reservation to the state highway system.
- Jason James asked what functional classification Valencia Road is.
  - Jason Bahe stated it was a major collector.

- Jason James inquired if Jason felt that the roadway should be upgraded to the next designation.
  - Jason Bahe was unsure. Jason James will look into this matter further. He shared ADOT has a tool where a jurisdiction can request a change of designation. Changing the functional classification can provide more opportunity for funding.
- Jason Bahe asked if districts mentioned were in reference to ADOT or Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) districts.
  - Jason James confirmed he is referring to ADOT districts.
  - Don stated that the ADOT district for the Pascua Yaqui Tribe is the Southcentral District.
- Jason Bahe stated that the reservation boundaries are changing. The Tribe is acquiring land at I-10 and Grant Road within the next five years. This will be another roadway that will provide access to the state transportation network.
  - Don inquired if there were plans to have future economic development on this land.
    - Jason confirmed that a casino has been approved by the City of Tucson and the state.

### 3. LRTP OVERVIEW

Jason James provided an overview on ADOT's Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) and the update that is specific to this tribal outreach effort.

- Jason Bahe did not have any questions following the overview of the ADOT LRTP. He stated that the development of Interstate 11 (I-11) is important for the Tribe and is something that the Tribe would be interested in. He also stated that there is discussion of widening I-10 throughout Tucson.

### 4. PYT PRIORITIES/COMMENTS

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

- Jason James inquired what priorities Pascua Yaqui Tribe has related to transportation.
  - Jason Bahe reiterated the Tribe's transportation priorities of the development of I-11 and widening of I-10. Jason stated that the planned alignment for I-11 is projected to traverse the Tohono O'odham Tribe Reservation and connect to I-19 near Sahuarita. Other notable priorities include the following roads, which connect the reservation with the greater transportation network:
    - Joseph Street, connecting to Ajo Highway
    - Camino Verde, connecting to Ajo Highway
  - Jason James inquired if the identified I-11 and I-10 widening projects are identified in the Pima Association of Governments (PAG) regional plan.
    - Don shared that he assisted with the tribal outreach for the I-11 Environmental Impact Statement project. The Tier 1 EIS is completed. Once the Tier 2 EIS is finished, that will be the alternative moving forward. He shared that ADOT met with the Pascua Yaqui tribal council on the project.
    - Jason Bahe stated that he believes it is included in PAG's regional plan. The Tribe is also part of the Regional Transportation Authority (RTA) planning process. He stated that implementation of a truck bypass is being explored from Sahuarita to Houghton Road. There are also upcoming plans to widen Valencia Road, west of I-19.
  - The Tribe also has a proposal with RTA to improve Camino De Oeste to a three-lane road.

- Jason Bahe shared that the reservation becomes land locked when it rains, especially along Camino De Oeste, and the tribe would like to make the roadway all-weather accessible.
  - Jason James inquired what the bridge condition is on Valencia Road at I-10, where the roadway crosses the Santa Cruz River.
    - Jason Bahe stated that the major impact on Valencia Road is when traveling east-west. Because of this, they are implementing the roadway improvements, which will include retrofit of the existing bridge.
- Jason James asked what other priorities the Tribe has outside of transportation, such as transit, water, or lighting.
  - Jason Bahe stated that the Tribe has access to the Central Arizona Project (CAP) Canal, which is in jeopardy due to the lack of available water. Jason stated that the Tribe has a golf course and two casinos that also rely on water from the CAP Canal in addition to the rest of the reservation.
  - Jason Bahe shared that Sun Tran provides bus routes to the Tribe, serving the Casino and connecting the greater transportation network. The Tribe also runs an internal elderly transit service, providing access to the Tribe's new health facility, El Rio Health Center, and the Tribe's administrative services.
  - Jason Bahe mentioned that the Tribe is building additional housing, including single family homes and apartments.
- Jason James asked what the LRTP's top priorities should be, from a statewide perspective.
  - Jason Bahe said that for him, the LRTP priorities should be:
    - Implementation of I-11
    - Bullet Train between Tucson and Phoenix
    - Improvements to I-19 to improve access between the United States and Mexico
- Don inquired if the Tribe has updated their LRTP since 2009.
  - Jason Bahe stated that their LRTP was updated in 2017 with Rick Engineering. He noted that it will need to be updated in the coming year.
- Don inquired if the Tribe has a safety plan.
  - Jason Bahe stated that it was previously updated but will need to be updated again soon.
- Paula inquired if the Tribe is facing any challenges in completing transportation priority projects.
  - Jason Bahe stated that the biggest concern of the Tribe is the underpass on Grant Road at I-10 and Grant Road. The City of Tucson has plans to widen Grant Road to a three-lane roadway. With the development of the casino, there may be traffic and access issues. The casino will also increase traffic on Fairview Avenue and Flowing Wells Road.

## 5. CLOSING REMARKS

The Project Team thanked Jason for his participation in the Consultation Session.

## 6. ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

The following links provide additional resources:

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