

Arizona Long Range Transportation Plan
Navajo Nation Consultation Meeting
June 20, 2016
1:45 Mountain Standard Time

ATTENDEES

Arlando Teller, Navajo DOT	Karen Benally, Navajo DOT	Charla Glendening, ADOT
Darryl Bradley, Navajo DOT	Marie Dineyazhe, Navajo DOT	Don Sneed, ADOT
Jonah Begay, Navajo DOT		Dan Marum, Wilson & Company

- I. **Introduction to the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) Long Range Transportation Plan (LRTP) Update**
 - a. Charla Glendening provided a summary of the Arizona LRTP and indicated that the planning horizon for the Plan is Year 2040 (25 Year Plan).
 - b. Charla also indicated that the LRTP will be a policy based plan vs. project based plan, following a similar format that was selected by ADOT during the preparation of the current LRTP entitled What Moves You Arizona. This previous Plan was adopted by the Arizona State Transportation Board in November, 2011.
 - c. Other key characteristics of the LRTP include; Update every 5 years / Data-driven, Performance-based / Recommends investment choices in the areas of preservation, modernization, and expansion / Provides high-level direction to guide ADOT's investment decisions after plan adoption.

- II. **Discussion Related to the Selection of a Recommended Investment Choice**
 - a. Charla stated that investment choices cover three separate areas of the need for the Department; Preservation, Modernization, and Expansion.
 - b. Charla provided a summary of the tool that will be used by the LRTP Project Team and ADOT to evaluate Alternative Investment Choices (AIC's) and ultimately assist in the selection of a Recommended Investment Choice (RIC). The software tool is entitled Decision Lens. This tool will allow ADOT and key stakeholders to analyze investment choices considering a defined set of funding level scenarios. The analysis typically consists of four key steps; Collect, Weight, Rate, and Evaluate. Ultimately, ADOT may consider using the software to assist in project selection/prioritization process based on recommendations to be presented in the LRTP Update related to refinements to ADOT's Planning to Programming (P2P) Link.
 - c. Preliminary results from the application of the Decision Lens tool will be available in the Fall of this year and ADOT will remain in communication with Navajo Nation to review the initial results and preliminary recommendations to be included in the Draft LRTP Update.

III. LRTP Schedule and Current State of the Transportation System Discussion

- a. Dan Marum introduced the Project Schedule and indicated that since the start of the update effort in late 2015, the following tasks have been completed or are in Draft Final form; Visioning Workshop, Round 1 Stakeholder Outreach, technical reports entitled “Transportation in Arizona” / Working Paper #2 “LRTP Goals and Objectives” / Working Paper #3 Existing/Future Revenue Needs and Deficiencies”. Dan also stated that the LRTP Update will be completed in early 2017 with the selection of a RIC and Evaluation Criteria Weighting scheduled to occur later this Summer and into the Fall.
- b. Dan presented a series of slides detailing the research that was conducted to document the current “State of Transportation in Arizona”. Topics covered included; Population Levels, Economic Conditions, Highway and Bridge Needs, Safety, Public Transportation, Bicycles & Pedestrians, Passenger & Freight Rail, and Aviation.

IV. Draft System Goals and Objectives

- a. A Draft set of System and Process related Goals and Objectives were presented for review and discussion. Goal and Objective topics included; Mobility, Preservation, Safety, Partnerships, Stewardship, and Effectiveness.

V. Group Discussion, LRTP Comments, Stakeholder Questions and Input

Q: Arlando Teller – Will ADOT consider the results of recently completed PARA Projects (Chinle to Many Farms, Ganado, and St. Michaels to Fort Defiance)? Also, how will ADOT incorporate the findings and project recommendations for N12, US 191 and SR 264 from the three studies in to the five year construction program?

A: ADOT would follow the recently developed Planning to Programming (P2P) Linkage Process and on an annual basis ADOT would issue a “Call for Projects”. This is an opportunity for the Navajo Nation Department of Transportation (NNDOT) to submit a list of projects to improve State Highways based on recommendations documented in relevant studies completed within the Community. The NNDOT would work with the ADOT District Engineer to determine appropriate projects for submittal. ADOT will review and evaluate these projects utilizing the P2P project prioritization process prior to the development of the Five-Year Transportation Facilities Construction Program. (For tribal or BIA route projects, tribal champions would need to obtain funding through the other resource programs such as the Highway Safety Improvement Program, in order for them to be included in the Five-Year Program. Each PARA study includes a Plan for Implementation/List of Funding Resources that can assist in these efforts.) For further information on P2P see:

<http://www.azdot.gov/planning/CurrentStudies/linking-the-long-range-plan-and-construction-program>
<http://aztransportationboard.gov/downloads/Planning-to-Programming-2015.pdf>

Q: What is the vision for population growth?

A: Economy, birth rate and in-migration all contribute to the forecast of population growth as documented by the State Demographer.

Q: Rural vs. Urban – How will rural projects compete for funding on a Statewide basis?

A: ADOT utilizes evaluation criteria and investment choice guidance provided in the LRTP to assist in the selection of construction projects across the State, annually.

Q: BIA Roads are an issue for the community and the NNDOT. How can we improve the process to define needs, justify project improvements and investment decisions as we submit our recommendations to the Community, elected officials and Tribal leadership?

A: Navajo Nation is in the same situation as the State of Arizona. The State Transportation Board must balance the needs of heavily traveled urban roadways with the investment requirements of State facilities serving

rural areas of Arizona. The LRTP provides a sound foundation for the investment decisions that influence the Five-Year Construction Program.

Q: How does ADOT ensure that project priorities are maintained in the Construction Program and ultimately allow for the delivery of system improvements, recognizing that roadway improvement projects typically require a number of years to evolve and mature?

A: This is an ongoing challenge for the State. Once projects are prioritized and programmed, then project monitoring is required to ensure milestones are being met and the delivery schedule is maintained. This process allows for the review and retention of projects in the Five-Year Construction Program if delivery performance measures are met. Ultimately, the State Transportation Board has the authority to approve, or move projects in the Five-Year Construction Program.

Q: How does the Casa Grande Accord (CGA) affect spending decisions that are reflected in the Five-Year Construction Program?

A: No deviation from the CGA is anticipated in the LRTP.

Q: ADOT cannot forget about transportation system / mobility of residents in northern Arizona, which is why CGA was mentioned.

A: No deviation from the CGA is anticipated in the LRTP.

VI. Definition of Next Steps

- a. Key tasks to be completed include; Finalize Goals, Finalize Needs & Revenues, Develop Draft RIC, Calibrate Project Selection Criteria & Process, and Develop Draft LRTP.
- b. Continuing Stakeholder Opportunities; LRTP Website Updates (Ongoing), Stakeholder Survey (Summer 2015), RIC Rollout (Early Fall 2016), and Draft Plan Review (Early 2017).