

FORT MOJAVE INDIAN TRIBE CONSULTATION SESSION
 MEETING SUMMARY NOTES
 FRIDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2022
 1:00 PM TO 2:30 PM

MEETING ATTENDEES

- Wayne Nelson, *Roads Department Planner, Fort Mojave Indian Tribe (FMIT)*
- 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*
- Anthony Brozich, *District Administrator, ADOT Northwest District*
- Kristen Faltz, *Kimley-Horn*

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

Jason 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 inquired if there are any additional state assets in addition to SR-95 and I-40 connecting to the Tribe.
 - Wayne stated that SR-68 also connects tribal land to the state highway system but is not a direct connection with the reservation.
- Jason asked how familiar Wayne is with ADOT and the P2P process.
 - Wayne stated that he is not overly familiar with either. He has not had consistent communication with ADOT since the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Jason to send the P2P project nomination form to Wayne.
- Anthony, Northwest District Administrator, provided his contact information.
 - abrozich@azdot.gov - 602.463.3615

3. LRTP OVERVIEW

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

4. FMIT PRIORITIES/COMMENTS

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

- Wayne asked what ADOT is planning long-term for the tribe and the surrounding area.
 - Anthony stated that SR-95 is planned to be repaved and timing adjustments are also planned for the traffic signals along the roadway. Mojave County had won grant funding to retime the signals just north of the reservation. There is also one that goes down almost through Courtwright Road that will be paved in the future.
- Wayne inquired if Anthony is involved in the bridge project near the reservation.
 - Anthony stated that the district is involved in it and he can become involved when needed.
- Wayne stated that safety is an issue at the bridge location, especially truck safety and traffic control. He shared that traffic now backs up to Courtwright Road and SR-95.
- Wayne identified a need for electrical vehicle charging stations. He stated that ADOT is planning some along I-40 but is wondering if SR-95 is included in that plan.
 - Jason stated that the priority of electric vehicle charging has been trending in the consultation sessions.
 - Jason stated he does not believe that SR-95 was included because the plan had a very tight completion window, so the focus was on larger corridors. It is known that the plan needs to be expanded, as non-interstate, tribal, and secondary routes were not included.
 - Wayne stated that with where the Tribe is situated, FMIT can work with CalTrans but have not seen anything on EV charging from them. He shared that the tribe is very interested in electric vehicle charging stations, especially since there are many people that come to visit off of I-40. The Tribe will also have electric vehicle fleets soon.
 - Don stated that the initial phase of the plan was focused on interstates, however we understand that the process must include additional routes. The next phase will likely be focused on the national highway system, which includes SR-95. It would be up to local stakeholders to nominate the route for the plan. This process will likely take place early next year.
 - Wayne stated that interest is relative, especially when compared to the Phoenix area. When looking at reservations, the only people that can take advantage of this are larger tribes. Rural tribes are typically off the beaten path in most places. This is a concern for smaller tribes when relative interest matters in these processes.
 - Anthony requested that Wayne keep in contact so that he can hear FMIT's needs and hopefully bundle them with other municipalities.
 - Don stated that another consideration is traffic generators, so keeping that information up to date and in nominations is a large consideration.
- Anthony stated that he is tasking his team to focus on safety on SR-95 in Bullhead City and will ask them to also look into areas near the reservation and the state border as well. He stated that to improve safety, medians can be implemented but options are limited outside of improved enforcement.
- Anthony asked if the tribal police department enforces along SR-95.

- Wayne stated that the police department does not enforce on SR-95 because any tickets written need to go through Mojave County.
- Jason stated that ADOT will be updating the state safety plan. This includes looking at the safety concerns of our tribal partners. Jason will follow up with Kerry Wilcoxon on the concerns raised so that they are captured in the plan.
- Wayne stated that there is more large semi-truck traffic within the past five years. Due to cab requirements in California, truck traffic is common in residential areas.
 - Anthony stated that the more Wayne can share these concerns with ADOT, it may show that there are more concerns that need to be addressed.
- Anthony stated that ADOT is putting in fiber from the California border up to Flagstaff along I-40, which will provide the backbone for ITS infrastructure.
 - Wayne will share this information with the tribe's telecommunication group.
 - Anthony can provide contact information to the broadband effort project manager.
- Jason asked what other challenges the tribe has encountered, outside of transportation.
 - Wayne stated that water availability is always a concern. The Tribe only gets water from the Colorado River. Clean water is also a problem in the south valley. The Tribe is also working on solar. They are working on their second grant with the Economic Development Administration and are working with Western Area Power Administration as well.
 - Jason agreed that water will be a challenge in the coming years. Although it is not directly related to transportation, the more development occurs, the more these other subjects will be impacted.
 - Wayne stated that ADOT needs to stop expanding the roadway system and focus on the preservation of existing roads. The more new roadways that are built, the less money there is for existing roadways.
- Jason inquired what Wayne's top three transportation priorities are at a state-wide level.
 - Wayne stated they are maintenance, bridge, and safety.
- Don asked if the tribe has developed a safety plan or long-range transportation plan.
 - Wayne stated that they produced these plans five years ago and are needing to update them.
 - Don stated that the tribe's LRTP and safety plan are a good resource for funding opportunities.
 - Wayne stated that the tribe will be updating their transit, safety, and long-range transportation plans in the next two years.
 - Don asked that these documents be shared with ADOT, to help aid funding opportunities.
 - Wayne to share the updated documents when they are created.
- Wayne stated that the major roads that required fixing or maintenance on the reservation have been done.
 - Wayne to send these projects to ADOT.
- Paula inquired if FMIT has any plans for major economic development projects in the upcoming years.
 - Wayne confirmed that they do. He shared that there are plans for a new casino in both California, Arizona and Nevada. Residential development is planned in the south valley, to include duplex housing, apartments, and single-family homes since there is a house shortage for tribal members. Other planned developments include a sports park, new administration building and a convenience store/gas station. The tribe also just built an elementary school and a wellness center. He emphasized that with building economic development projects, they find there to be a shortage of workers.

5. CLOSING REMARKS

The Project Team thanked Wayne 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](#)