

PUEBLO OF ZUNI TRIBE CONSULTATION SESSION
MEETING SUMMARY NOTES
 MONDAY, OCTOBER 17, 2022
 12:00 PM TO 1:30 PM

MEETING ATTENDEES

- Royce Gchachu, *Tribal Roads Department Program Manager, Pueblo of Zuni Tribe*
- Jason James, *LRTP 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*
- Chris Joannes, *Kimley-Horn*

1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

Jason welcomed attendees and introduced the Project Team.

2. P2P OVERVIEW

Only one small section of US 180 crosses PZT land in Arizona, so the P2P update was not provided as it is not very applicable. Royce gave a history of PZT in Arizona – the tribe is largely in New Mexico but has purchased land in Arizona (northwest of St. Johns) for religious and cultural significance which is held in trust. Tribal members use SR 61 and US 191 to access these lands from the Zuni Reservation in New Mexico.

3. LRTP OVERVIEW

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

- Royce stated that PZT recently completed their tribal LRTP, so the structure and goals are familiar. He added that he would like any information generated by the LRTP to be sent to him and he will provide to the PZT’s leadership.

4. PZT PRIORITIES/COMMENTS

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

- Jason asked what the major transportation priorities that came out of PZT’s LRTP update.
 - Reconstructing roadways with poor pavement conditions were the largest priority within the main Zuni Reservation in New Mexico. PZT is a direct recipient of FHWA Tribal Transportation Program funds which provides the bulk of their transportation funding.
- Jason asked which Council of Governments PZT is located within in New Mexico.
 - Royce responded that PZT is in the Northwest Council area and Robert Kuiper is the primary planner they work with.
- Jason asked what have been transit priorities for PZT?
 - Royce responded that PZT is a recipient of FTA tribal formula funds as well as NMDOT-administered FTA 5311 funding. PZT is interested in consolidating all funding through their direct recipient status with FTA.
 - Royce added that PZT provides local routes in the Zuni Reservation as well as intercity service to Gallup, NM, also servicing the VA hospital. There has been an effort to provide services from the Zuni Reservation to the lands that PZT owns in Arizona.

- Jason responded that PZT involve NACOG in any conversations with ADOT transit staff.
- Jason asked what are the biggest challenges for PZT?
 - PZT is currently working with a private company to get broadband service on the Reservation.
 - PZT's airport is attempting to attract commercial service, it is largely used for medivac currently.
 - Transit service to Albuquerque is another priority for PZT, potentially viable over the next four to five years.
 - Water and wastewater quality are another priority – infrastructure needs major upgrades.
 - Residential development just off of BIA Road 4, north of NM 53 is an ongoing pursuit.
- Jason asked if there are any other major economic development activity anticipated?
 - The Fort Wingate area near I-40 east of Gallup may potentially be a future development opportunity which was recently turned over to the Navajo Nation from the Department of Defense.
- Jason asked what Royce's three main priorities would be if he were in charge of ADOT
 - Improve pavement conditions and roadway shoulders/geometrics (SR 61 and US 191, as they connect the Zuni Reservation and Show Low, Sanders, and ultimately Phoenix and Tucson).
- Don asked if PZT has developed a safety plan?
 - PZT has one from 2014 but has requested funding from BIA for an update. They have also requested an RSA for NM53.
- Royce asked that ADOT provide him a summary report which he could share with the Zuni Pueblo.

5. CLOSING REMARKS

The Project Team thanked Royce 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](#)