



**TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY
COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**

DATE:	March 24, 2021	TIME:	10:00AM – 12:00PM
PLACE:	Virtual - Zoom		
Virtual - Zoom			
Attendees:	Steve Latoski – MCPW & Chair Eric Sparkman – Kingman John Barlow – Colorado City Phil Wisely – Hualapai & Vice Chair Andy Bullock – Kingman Sarah Lojewski - LHMPO Jason James – ADOT MPD	Kevin Adam – RTAC David Do – ADOT LPA Jennifer Henderson – ADOT LPA Bruce Fenske - ADOT SW Dist. Mike Blankenship – Greenlight TE Smitha Kundur – Michael Baker Justin Hembree – WACOG	
ITEM	AGENDA ITEM		
1	Call to order at 10:00 AM and introductions		
2	Approval of Minutes from January 27, 2021 meeting: Motion Eric Sparkman, Philip Wisely Second; Unanimous	APPROVED	
3	<u>FY2021 – TIP Amendment #1 - Formal</u> Delete STBG Projects <i>WACOG-24-101</i> and <i>WACOG-26-101</i> Add/Program HSIP Safety Project <i>WACOG-H23-105</i> (WACOG Sponsored) in its place. Motion Philip Wisely, John Barlow Second; Unanimous	APPROVED	
4	<u>FY2021 – TIP Amendment #2 - Formal</u> Consolidate two (2) HSIP Lighting and Signage Projects into a single project: Bullhead Parkway (Canyon Rd to Hill View Dr.) & Silver Creek Rd (SR 95 to Bullhead Parkway) - <i>WACOG-H21-103</i> Motion Eric Sparkman, Philip Wisely Second; Unanimous	APPROVED	
5	<u>FY2021 – TIP Amendment #3 - Formal</u> Reduce funding to WACOG Rural Transportation Summit (RTS) Travel Project and Reprogram/Add “Big-Data” Transportation Analytics Project Motion Steve Latoski, Philip Wisely Second; Unanimous	APPROVED	
6	<u>FY 2021 Loan # 1:</u> WACOG LOAN TO ADOT FY2021 LOAN OUT of ANY and ALL lapsing funds (expected \$492k in STBG and \$88k in HSIP - amounts subject to change before June 30, 2021), with REPAYMENT in FY2023 (OA –STBG/STP) and FY2022 (OA-HSIP) – Loan will aid in maintaining a fiscally constraint TIP and is necessary for the three-year roll over strategy to fund the City of Kingman – Eastern St. Project Motion Philip Wisely, John Barlow Second; Unanimous	APPROVED	
7	STBG Ledger & TIP Review: Justin Hembree WACOG Ledger & TIP provided in Agenda Packet. WACOG region remains fiscally constraint. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Changes ensuing from FY21 TIP amendments 1-3 & FY21 Loan #1 were presented and discussed. WACOG TIP remains programmed-out until FY25. WACOG expected to perform a call-for-projects (STBG) sometime during fiscal year 2024. 		

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<p align="center">8</p>	<p>HSIP Program Update: Justin Hembree</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2021 Call for Projects – An updated timeline was presented and discussed. WACOG finalized the contract with Greenlight TE to perform crash data analysis and HSIP application support for ADOT’s upcoming call for projects (Projects, if awarded, will be funded in FY25-26). Justin suggested that local agencies begin documenting locations that may be of concern or eligible for safety improvements and that when Greenlight TE preforms the crash data analysis, locations of interest/concern would be included in the analysis. Local agencies are to submit projects of interest by the <i>May 19th TAC Meeting</i> to Greenlight TE. • Steve Latoski provided an update to Mohave County’s FY21 HSIP – Northern Ave. project. The project requires a revised name, scope, and schedule. The project name will be updated to remove reference to a “Road-Diet” as it is now considered a “Complete-Streets” project. The project will need to be rescheduled and pushed back one fiscal year for both the Design phase as well as the Construction phase. A new eligibility letter will be submitted to Mohave County shortly, and forwarded to WACOG highlighting the necessary revisions for the project. During discussion, it was determined that the project will require a “formal” FY21 TIP amendment, Justin Hembree stated he (WACOG) would draft a memorandum for the necessary TIP amendment and place on the May19th agenda for the TAC’s consideration and approval.
<p align="center">9</p>	<p>WACOG Report: Justin Hembree</p> <p>Intercity Connection / Regional Transit Implementation Plan – Kittelson is currently working on the “Existing Conditions” analysis, as soon as they have data and information to report, WACOG will work with stakeholders and various councils/boards to schedule presentations and discussion. The draft “Outreach-Plan” including updated project schedule was provided in the agenda packet and discussed. WACOG and Kittelson are conducting one-on-one meetings with each public agency to get their perspective on a regional transit system and any challenges the region faces. One-on-one meetings currently scheduled during the last two weeks of March 2021.</p>
<p align="center">10</p>	<p>RTAC Report: Kevin Adam</p> <p>The State Legislature is increasingly demonstrating a growing interest in infrastructure investment. However, that support level has not yet risen to the point of supporting a fuel tax or fee increase to pay for it. They have rather prioritized earmarking surplus general fund revenues for infrastructure projects. This is popular as they get to support the infrastructure without raising taxes. They also get to take credit for specific projects rather than directing funding to HURF or some other distribution process where it is not as clear or transparent as to how the funding will actually be used.</p> <p>To date, virtually all of the transportation revenue bills are already dead this session while many of the earmark bills continue to advance. Legislative leadership has indicated that they are setting aside \$200 million in the state budget for these types of projects. One of the big issues with earmarking is that it bypasses planning and programming. When advancing an earmark, the merits of the project are usually articulated but why it should jump to the front of the funding line typically is not.</p> <p>As earmarking appears to be the most viable option for securing additional infrastructure funding, the RTAC Advisory Committee, consisting of the Greater AZ COG/MPO directors, is developing a compromise approach. We propose to develop a list of regional priorities consisting of the top projects put forward by all of the COG/MPOs in Greater AZ. Legislators would still be advocating for specific projects but they would be the state’s rural regional priorities as determined by Greater AZ’s transportation planning organizations.</p>

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	<p>The Directors have had several discussions regarding the most equitable and viable approach to compiling this list and recommend these initial guidelines:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The total list value will be \$40 million. 2. Each Greater AZ COG/MPO would be allocated an amount proportional to their population. 3. No COG/MPO or local jurisdiction would be precluded from pursuing separate earmarks for other projects. <p>We will not likely have time to develop this list and pursue funding this legislative session but will have it prepared well in advance of next session. We do need direction from the RTAC Board on if and how to proceed. If we can agree to the general parameters, such as funding levels & distribution, the COG/MPOs can start the process of identifying projects from their regions.</p> <p>Justin Hembree suggested the strategy of adding a new section to the WACOG TIP specifically for state legislative funding and that all projects be considered in “Parking-Lot” status until awarded. In addition, Justin suggested that WACOG conduct a call-for-projects and utilize the existing STBG applications and score sheets (with minor modifications) to prioritize projects related to state legislative/earmarked funding. The WACOG TAC supported the strategy and Justin will move forward toward creating a new section of the TIP and process to program projects. WACOG will send out an email with guidance in the coming months and place the topic on the TAC agenda as a standing item.</p>
11	<p>ADOT Planner Report: Jason James</p> <p>ADOT Planner Report – Public comment period began for ADOT’s Tentative Five-Year Construction Program. On March 18, 2021, ADOT released their tentative 2022-2026 Five-Year Transportation Facilities Construction Program(link is external) for public review and comment. The public comment period for the Tentative Five-Year Program ends at 5 p.m. on June 3, 2021.</p> <p>The State Transportation Board is expected to consider formal action at the June 18 board meeting.</p> <p>The public can provide comments on the tentative Five-Year Program in the following ways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attend the virtual public hearings of the State Transportation Board on March 19, April 16, May 21 and June 3 at 9 a.m. Meeting information can be found at http://aztransportationboard.gov(link is external) • Complete an online comment form at: https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ADOTFiveYearPlan(link is external) • Email: fiveyearconstructionprogram@azdot.gov(link sends e-mail) <p>The tentative 2022-2026 Transportation Facilities Construction Program includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$2.8 billion for highway projects in Greater Arizona. • \$2.3 billion in voter-approved freeway investments in Maricopa County and \$311 million in the Pima County region. • \$131 million in airport capital improvements. • The \$2.8 billion statewide highway portion of the program includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ \$1.8 billion in preservation projects, which include repaving highways, extending the life cycle of existing pavement, and repairing or reconstructing bridges. ○ More than \$1 billion will go toward pavement preservation projects to extend the life of Arizona roadways and upgrade 581 lane miles from poor to good condition. ○ Another \$407 million for projects that improve highway safety, efficiency and functionality, such as smart technology or adding shoulders.

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A total of \$313.5 million proposed for state highway projects that add capacity, such as widening projects and new interchanges. Key projects in the tentative Five Year Program include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ More than \$328 million to widen I-17 north of metro Phoenix between Anthem Way and Sunset Point. ▪ \$83 million to rebuild and widen the Gila River Bridge on I-10 between Phoenix and Casa Grande. ▪ \$70 million to construction the I-40/US 93 West Kingman Interchange ▪ \$41 million to widen U.S. 93 north of Wickenburg.
12	<p>LHMPO Report: Sarah Lojewski</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The LHMPO twenty-five (25) year regional transportation plan (RTP) covering 2020-2045 is still underway. Kittelson is currently working on the future conditions analysis phase. Further updates and details will be provided as the planning process moves forward. • LHMPO secured a service contract with Greenlight TE to perform crash data analysis and HSIP application support for ADOT's upcoming call-for-projects (HSIP_FY25-26). • LHMPO is working to fill the vacant Director position and will begin conducting interviews shortly. An interview panel was created from existing LHMPO TAC members. Sarah Lojewski remains the interim contact until the position is filled.
13	<p>ADOT LPA Report: David Do</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project Status Report - Provided in the Agenda Packet and discussed • Every Day Counts (EDC) - March 11, 2021 ADOT hosted Part 3 of the planning level cost estimate training (best practices and strategy to developing sound project cost estimates). A link to the recording of the training was distributed by WACOG via email on March 16.
14	<p>Training/Workshop Discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Steve Latoski reminded the TAC to submit any future training or workshops of interest to him (the Chairman) and or to WACOG, and collectively, we would work to schedule the training at a date and time convenient to the group.
15	<p>District Engineers Report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Northwest District Engineering Report – No report given. • Southwest District Engineering Report Provided – Bruce Fenske provided updates for current Southwest District projects. • Northcentral District Engineering Report - No report given.
16	<p>Local Agencies Report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Steve Latoski provided updates on Mohave County area projects. • Eric Sparkman provided updates on City of Kingman area projects. • John Barlow provided updates on Colorado City area projects. • Philip Wisely provided updates on Hualapai Tribe area projects.
17	<p>Other Items and Announcements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Smitha Kundur with Michael Baker joined the meeting to gain general information, knowledge on how the WACOG TAC functions, and updates on issues related to regional planning. • Mike Blankenship with Greenlight TE joined the meeting and provided a brief update on various projects the Greenlight team is currently working on.
18	<p>Next Meeting Date and Agenda Items: Steve Latoski</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Next meeting scheduled for May 19, 2021 (One week early due to holiday). • Justin Hembree announced that the following items would be placed on the May 19th TAC agenda: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ HSIP - FY25-26 Project of Interest List ○ Intercity Transit Connection – Kittelson Presentation ○ FY21 - TIP amendment #4 - Northern Ave HSIP Project ○ Call for State Legislator/Earmarked Projects



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19	Presentations and Discussion
	Meeting Adjourned at 12:00PM