



**NACOG  
TRANSPORTATION POLICY  
ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TPAC)**

**MEETING NOTICE AND AGENDA**

Pursuant to A.R.S. 38-431.02

Wednesday, March 10, 2021  
1:00 PM – 2:00 PM

**Videoconference Meeting**

To join the meeting from your computer, tablet or smartphone, click here:

<https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/125364925>

You can also dial in using your phone.

Call In Number: [\(312\) 757-3121](tel:(312)757-3121)

Access Code: 125-364-925

- I. Call to Order and Introductions
- II. Approval of Minutes
  - February 10, 2021
- III. Selection of Chair and Vice Chair
- IV. Legislative Update
- V. Transportation Planning Program Reports
  - Roadway/Infrastructure
  - Mobility and Transit
- VI. Next Meeting: April 14, 2021 – 1:00 PM
- VII. Adjourn

MEMBER NAME	ENTITY	PRESENT	ABSENT	STAFF NAME
Ferrin Crosby	Apache County	X		Chris Fetzer
Michael Lomayaktewa	Hopi Tribe		X	Jennifer O'Connor
Bill Regner	Town of Clarkdale	X		Mandia Gonzales
Matt Ryan	Coconino County	X		Cindy Binkley
Jerry Smith	Town of Pinetop-Lakeside	X		
Alton Shepherd	Apache County	X		
				<b>GUEST/ALTERNATE NAME</b> <b>ENTITY</b>
				Kevin Adam                      RTAC
				Brady Harris                    Town of Tusayan
				Bill Diak                            City of Page
				Darren Coldwell                City of Page
				Fern Benally                      Navajo County

### I. Call to Order and Introductions

**Vice-Chairman Matt Ryan called the meeting to order at 1:05 P.M.** Self-introductions were made. A quorum was present.

### II. Approval of Minutes – January 13, 2021

Vice-Chairman Ryan asked for any corrections to the January meeting minutes. Hearing none, he asked for a motion to approve.

**Bill Regner moved to approve the January 13, 2021 meeting minutes as presented, seconded by Jerry Smith. Motion passed unanimously.**

### III. Legislative Update

Kevin Adam provided a legislative update.

#### **Federal Update**

There is much transition occurring at the federal level. The Biden Administration is getting its transportation team into place. Pete Buttigieg has been sworn in as the Transportation Secretary.

Reauthorization of the FAST Act is scheduled for this year. The House of Representatives has a proposal ready, and the Administration is expected to weigh in on its contents. Due to the partisan majority change in the upper chamber, the Senate is expected to start working on its proposal in late spring.

The last round of COVID relief funding provided \$9.8 billion to state DOTs for revenues that were lost at the state level. Arizona's portion of this allocation is \$182 million. ADOT is developing a plan for use of these funds. This money will likely be incorporated into the 5-year construction program.

Another round of relief funding is working its way toward consideration.

### **State Update**

The State of Arizona has forecasted a \$2 billion budget surplus at end of the fiscal year. \$1.6 billion of that amount will likely be considered one-time funding, and will be earmarked for specific projects. There are currently 29 bills working through the legislative process, totaling \$284 million. The legislature is expected to make some funding available for infrastructure projects. The Rural Transportation Advocacy Council is lobbying for this funding to go through the HURF process, so it might be distributed through established channels and used in the best way possible. However, earmarking is preferred by lawmakers, as it provides them with a tangible deliverable.

At the beginning of the legislative session, it was anticipated that HURF diversions would resume, due to the repeal of the VLT fee. The current budget surplus has made it easier for the State General Fund to take on this expense. The Governor's budget proposes using the General Fund to pay for highway patrol. However, when there is an economic downfall, and there are deficit concerns, the HURF raids may potentially resume.

SB 1650 has been introduced by Senator Livingston. This legislation would increase the state fuel tax by 1 cent each year from 2022-2045, with indexing for inflation. The measure also includes a fee for alternative fuel vehicles to compensate for them not using gasoline.

Representative Carroll has developed legislation for consideration by the State House of Representatives, which includes annual inflation adjustment and alternative fuel vehicle fees. HBs 2436 and 2437 are scheduled to be heard in House Transportation Committee today.

### **Project Priority List**

Chris Fetzer reported that the northern Arizona region does not currently have a prioritized list of projects to ask legislators to endorse during this legislative session. The statewide COG and rural MPO directors have engaged in discussion about being in the position for the next legislative session to have a prioritized list that could be targeted for state surplus funding to be appropriated for specific projects. It will be important to be mindful in developing these priorities, to have projects that are applicable to any different funding opportunities that may come up. Additionally, it is necessary to be thoughtful and strategic about doing this exercise once, because it would be a significant staff undertaking to coordinate with all the member jurisdictions at a sub-regional level.

At the COG/MPO level, the discussion has focused on selecting criteria that would be used to define which projects are on the list. Directors have been working with Kevin Adam to convene a statewide conversation about where consensus can be reached.

Earmarking hasn't been the practice for a long time. Normally, most of the work to allocate resources for transportation investment goes through a rigorous process, either through the state

or the regions. It's even more unusual to see the state legislature stepping into that arena. The NACOG region is not in a position to produce a vetted list of priorities at this point in time, but will be prepared for next year. It is advisable to get the project list developed early, and engage our legislators well before the beginning of the legislative session.

If the legislature is going to earmark money for transportation investment, it would be preferred for funds to be allocated through existing distribution formulas and methods. It doesn't validate the regional and statewide planning processes to go to the effort of using criteria to rate projects based on need/merit, only to have that work circumvented by legislators picking and choosing projects they'd like to see within their respective districts. It calls into question the integrity of those processes if earmarking becomes the norm. While earmarking is not optimal, it is imperative that NACOG is prepared to represent the region well in the future if that is the circumstance.

#### **Approve Resolution for Regional Council Consideration**

Customarily each year, the Transportation Policy Advisory Committee has presented a resolution for Regional Council adoption, to support transportation investment. This year's resolution is mirrored after a similar RTAC resolution, and includes four components:

1. Adjust HURF for inflation
2. Implementation of an alternative fuel fee
3. Increase primary funding sources, and
4. generate additional revenue.

Staff asked for feedback about including language in the resolution discouraging a return to the HURF diversions, even though that appears to be an unlikely occurrence this year.

The TPAC members agreed to include that language in the final resolution, as it is vital to keep pressure on legislators to set the precedent to use the State General Fund for DPS.

***Bill Regner moved to approve the resolution for Regional Council consideration, seconded by Ferrin Crosby. Motion passed unanimously.***

This resolution will be presented to the Regional Council for adoption at their 2/25 meeting.

#### **IV. Transportation Planning Program Report**

##### **Roadway/Infrastructure**

The NACOG region receives \$1.9 million annually for projects in the Transportation Investment Plan (TIP). A population formula and rotation process is used to apportion this funding to local communities. Staff is currently working with the Technical Subcommittee (TSC) to add new projects to the NACOG TIP for FYs2022-2026. The full list of TIP projects was included in the meeting packet. Mandia Gonzales presented a timeline for the TIP planning process. Draft projects have been

received from communities, and the public comment period begins in March. The TSC will make final edits to the list in June, before recommending the updated TIP for Regional Council approval.

Phase 1 of the regional traffic count project will begin next week. The purpose of this program is to collect traffic data to support local grant applications. Data collection methods will follow FHWA guidelines. There are 368 count locations included in Phase 1. There may potentially be some flexibility to add locations to future phases. Staff will work with the TSC to update the list of count locations on an annual basis.

### **Mobility and Transit**

The Yavapai Passenger Transportation Study (YPTS) has laid out a comprehensive vision for passenger transportation in Yavapai County. The plan strives to develop strategies to strengthen passenger transportation services and increase coordination among existing providers. The final recommendations report has been received from the project consultant. The recommendations are presented in three sections: 1) governance and funding recommendations, 2) service recommendations, and 3) coordination strategies.

The YTPS will help guide funding for the Section 5310 grant program. The YTPS will be reviewed annually and updated to monitor progress and effectiveness in meeting the priorities through the identified goals, objectives, and outcomes. Proposed 5310 grant projects in Yavapai County that address priority areas will be submitted to ADOT with a recommendation for funding based on adherence to the YTPS.

The Section 5310 grant cycle opened last week. A training webinar will take place today, and second one will occur on 2/25. Applications are due on March 18 at 4PM.

### **V. Next Meeting: March 10, 2021 – 1:00 PM**

Committee members that do not currently receive Kevin's RTAC email updates should contact Cindy Binkley to be added to the distribution list.

The next TPAC meeting is tentatively scheduled for 1PM on Wednesday, 3/10. Staff will send an outlook invitation to determine if there will be a quorum.

### **VI. Adjourn**

Vice-Chairman Ryan asked for any final questions or comments. Hearing none, he adjourned the meeting.

***Vice-Chairman Matt Ryan adjourned the February 10, 2021 meeting of the NACOG Transportation Policy Advisory Committee at 2:10 P.M.***



## **Memorandum:**

Date: March 8, 2021

To: NACOG Transportation Policy Advisory Committee

From: Jenn O'Connor, Acting Planning Director

Subject: Regional Planning Program Updates

### **Transportation Program**

#### **1) FY22-26 TIP New Projects**

##### Background

NACOG Transportation staff, Mandia Gonzales (Transportation Planner) and Jenn O'Connor (Acting Planning Director) work closely with the NACOG Technical Subcommittee (TSC) to update the TIP<sup>1</sup> every two years with new projects and to make adjustments, or amendments, to the TIP as project costs and plans fluctuate. The TSC is made up of staff from 23 local jurisdictions, 3 tribal governments, and various staff members from ADOT and the Federal Highway Administration. This group works together to share information on roadway infrastructure projects and make decisions about changes to and the programming of the TIP. Staff updates the Transportation Policy Advisory Committee (TPAC) and Regional Council on program activities and asks Regional Council to vote to approve the TIP document and TIP amendments as they arise.

##### New Projects

NACOG staff is continuing its process to update the Transportation Investment Plan (TIP) by working with the eligible local jurisdictions on their new Project Scoping Forms. Both NACOG staff and NACOG Technical Subcommittee (TSC) have now reviewed these forms. Attachment 1 shows the addition of 11 new projects that are under consideration for the FY 2022 – 2026 TIP.

Moving forward, NACOG staff will seek approval of the list at the April 7<sup>th</sup> TSC meeting and then make it available to the public for a 45-day comment period. The TIP Programming Schedule below provides a timeline for the update process. Assuming no significant changes are needed to the TIP, we will submit the final document to Regional Council for approval at the June 2021 meeting.

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<sup>1</sup> The Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) requires Councils of Governments like NACOG to maintain a Transportation Investment Plan (TIP) that lists the planned roadway infrastructure projects for each participating local government that will use federal and state highway dollars. The amount of available federal funding is based on the federal legislation that allocates funding to the states, the Fixing America's Surface Transportation (FAST) Act, which is then allocated to the NACOG region using a population-based formula.

## TIP PROGRAMMING SCHEDULE

<b>January - February 2021</b>	<u>Feb. 3</u> TSC review and discuss proposed FY25/FY26 projects. NACOG staff to start drafting TIP.
<b>March - April 2021</b>	<u>Apr. 7</u> TSC reviews draft TIP and provides feedback. <u>Apr. 22</u> Regional Council reviews draft and provides feedback. <u>Apr. 26 – Jun. 10</u> : TIP open for public comments.
<b>May – June 2021</b>	NACOG staff collects and consolidates feedback for review and discussion. <u>Jun. 2</u> TSC reviews comments and makes final edits. <u>Jun. 24</u> Regional Council reviews final plan and votes to approve it.
<b>July – August 2021</b>	<b><u>Alternate Dates if Additional Time Needed:</u></b> NACOG staff finalizes TIP (FY22-26). <u>Aug. 4</u> TSC Approves TIP. <u>Aug. 26</u> Regional Council approves TIP. NACOG staff submits final documents to ADOT.

Please see Attachment 1 for the full list of TIP projects.

## 2) Traffic Count Program

### Background

With funding from the Arizona Department of Transportation, NACOG is conducting a three-year Regional Traffic Count program by collecting data on federally classified roadways and local roads. This program helps to fill in the traffic count data gaps in our region, supports state and local planning decisions, and helps to inform and enhance local grant applications.

### Current Schedule and Count Locations

The purpose of this memo is to update TPAC on the final schedule and traffic count locations for Phase 1 of the program, which began in February. Kimley-Horn and United Civil Group (UCG), the selected consultant team, has coordinated with all member agencies within Phase 1 of the count program to schedule counts and secure permits. Please refer to the tentative schedule below. Note that the schedule may change if any weather events occur or other issues arise. Jurisdictions participating in years two and three of the program are not included in the Phase 1 schedule below.

It should be noted that some agencies may have counts conducted over multiple phases of the NACOG program. In the prioritization of Phase 1, many locations were identified as to have recent traffic count data, thus it was recommended to push those locations to future phases to maintain the lifespan of that data. Additionally, NACOG staff attempted to bundle near-by locations to improve efficiency for UCG staff during data collection.

## PHASE 1 SCHEDULE (2021)

<b>February</b>	Camp Verde, Jerome, Clarkdale, Cottonwood, Sedona
<b>March</b>	Camp Verde, Jerome, Cottonwood, Clarkdale, Taylor, Bagdad, Williams, Yavapai Co., Holbrook, Winslow
<b>April</b>	Show Low, Snowflake, White Mountains, Page, Tuba City, <i>Resets as needed</i>

In total, 368 locations will be counted in Phase 1 of the program. To view a map of these locations, please visit:

[https://www.google.com/maps/d/u/1/edit?mid=1EDzbHC7nMCvrgxGtUJ\\_kaPOnF77RCzP&usp=sharing](https://www.google.com/maps/d/u/1/edit?mid=1EDzbHC7nMCvrgxGtUJ_kaPOnF77RCzP&usp=sharing)

### Future Phases

The table below illustrates the jurisdictions that will be supported by the Regional Traffic Count Program in Phases 2 and 3. It should be noted, however, that the count locations/jurisdictions will continue to evolve with this program and as the Transportation Technical Subcommittee (TSC) continues to prioritize locations. An updated list of traffic count locations for Phase 2 will be available later this year.

<b>Phase 2 (2022)</b>	Bureau of Indian Affairs, Navajo Co., Pinetop-Lakeside, Show Low, Springerville
<b>Phase 3 (2023)</b>	Apache Co., Eager, Navajo Co., Springerville, Winslow, Yavapai Co., Pinetop-Lakeside

For a map of all currently-planned locations over the course of the three-year study, please visit: [https://www.google.com/maps/d/u/1/edit?mid=11HactA\\_zKO2AwNc9zpVKOxZDIcrUhToc&usp=sharing](https://www.google.com/maps/d/u/1/edit?mid=11HactA_zKO2AwNc9zpVKOxZDIcrUhToc&usp=sharing)

### Adding New Locations

Some jurisdictions have expressed interest in adding additional count locations to future phases. At this time our contract is limited to 1,115 count sites; however, the number of planned count locations may fluctuate and we will consider adding locations at the end of each phase. For Phase 1, NACOG staff will evaluate our flexibility to add new locations starting around August 2021. We will also revisit Phase 2 locations and will request assistance from member agencies to prioritize those locations. Depending on the available number of “new” locations, staff will inform and request the TSC to provide a list of potential new count locations.

For more information, resources, and links, please visit the NACOG Regional Traffic Count Program webpage: <https://nacog.org/departments/Regional-Planning/page/regional-traffic-count-program.html>

If you have any questions or comments, please contact Mandia Gonzales at [mgonzales@nacog.org](mailto:mgonzales@nacog.org)

## **Mobility and Transit Program**

### **1) 2021 FTA Section 5310 Grant Program**

#### **Background**

ADOT administers the Federal Transit Administration's (FTA) Section 5310 grant program, also known as the ADOT Coordinated Mobility Program, which is designed to financially support a variety of transit services to enhance mobility for seniors and individuals with disabilities across the state. The 5310 grant funding is available to fund costs for the purchase of capital equipment (e.g. vehicles and dispatch software), operations and mobility management activities. Eligible applicants include private non-profit organizations and public agencies that coordinate services. NACOG supports ADOT's program but recruiting transportation providers to apply for the grant opportunity, reviewing and ranking the applications for ADOT, and supporting program grantees through the life-cycle of the grant. The goal of ADOT and NACOG's Coordinated Mobility Programs is to help seniors, persons with disabilities and individuals seeking transportation to employment to meet their transportation needs through door-to-door transportation services, public transit or vanpools.

While the NACOG transportation planning region does not include the urban areas of Flagstaff and Central Yavapai, NACOG has an Intergovernmental Agreement with Central Yavapai Metropolitan Planning Organization (CYMPO) to provide coordinated mobility services within their boundaries. Therefore, NACOG supports improvements to passenger transportation services across the entire county, working to Yavapai County residents' access to goods, services and employment. Pedro Rodriguez is NACOG's Yavapai Mobility Management Planner and oversees the mobility enhancements in Yavapai County. In the three northern counties of Coconino, Navajo and Apache County, Tod Morris serves as NACOG's Senior Mobility Management Planner and tailors his passenger transportation support services to their diverse rural communities' needs.

#### **5310 Grant Application Period is Open**

The [FY2021 & FY2022 application](#) for FTA Section 5310 Funding is currently active and will close on March 18. The NACOG Mobility Managers, Tod Morris and Pedro Rodriguez, have been working with Northern Arizona providers to update various FTA policies to ensure compliance along with draft applications. NACOG has also established partners with four new agencies who will be applying for 5310 funding for the first time this year. Provided below is a preliminary overview of expected projects in Year 1 of the 5310 grant cycle for each of the four counties in the NACOG region and the CYMPO small-urban sub region.

<b>County</b>	<b>Estimated Number of Projects</b>	<b>Estimated FTA Requested Amounts</b>
<b>Apache</b>	2	\$30,000
<b>Navajo</b>	11	\$410,000
<b>Coconino</b>	4	\$110,000
<b>Yavapai-Rural</b>	10	\$365,153
<b>Yavapai-Small Urban Area (CYMPO)</b>	11	\$475,217

## 2) Vaccine Transportation

The rollout of the COVID-19 vaccine across northern Arizona has highlighted the need for transportation services for seniors and persons with disabilities. Access to vaccine locations for homebound residents has and will continue to rely on demand-response transportation providers to serve these high need clients. Transportation for vaccines also presents unique challenges for service logistics as providers are required to manage appointment scheduling and provide a higher level of service than traditional medical trips. NACOG's Mobility Team has been working with Area Agency on Aging to develop solutions to improve access and increase awareness on the COVID-19 vaccines in the region. These solutions include mobile vaccination clinics, extensive outreach to homebound seniors, appointment coordination with transportation providers, and increased funding to support transportation. NACOG is currently deploying these solutions in Yavapai County but will expand efforts to other regions in the near future.

## 3) AzRideInfo

NACOG has been working in partnership with Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG) on the development of a website designed to help older adults and the general public connect more quickly with transportation resources across Arizona. The website, [AzRideInfo](#), is a collaborate effort bringing together statewide resources from transportation providers, social service organizations, nonprofits and community groups. Providing this type of information and referral resource is a common objective for Mobility Management programs across the nation. Many Arizona COGs and MPOs have identified the need to establish this type of program. Therefore, this effort will work to support rural mobility not only in the NACOG region, but across the state. A press release on the formal launch of this website will be announced later this month.

For questions regarding Coordinated Mobility and Transit program activities in Yavapai County, please contact Pedro Rodriguez, Yavapai Mobility Management Planner, at 480-586-6094 or [prodriguez@nacog.org](mailto:prodriguez@nacog.org).

For questions regarding Coordinated Mobility and Transit program activities in Apache, Coconino and Navajo Counties, please contact Tod Morris, Senior Mobility Management Planner, at 928-213-5236 or [tmorris@nacog.org](mailto:tmorris@nacog.org).

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<b>Information Only</b>
<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Motion to Approve</b>

**FY22-26 NACOG TIP  
PRELIMINARY NEW PROJECTS**

Draft Version

Date Updated: 03/5/2021

PRIMARY AGENCY	FISCAL YEAR	SUB-REGION	PROJECT NAME	PROJECT TYPE	PRIMARY ROUTE/STREET	ROADWAY CLASSIFICATION	START POINT	END POINT	LENGTH (MILES)	INVESTMENT CATEGORY	ADOT DISTRICT	FUNDING	TOTAL
Navajo County	FY22 Design FY24 Construction	Navajo	McLaws Road Rehabilitation	Roadway Improvements	Concho Hwy	Minor Collector	-	-	TBD	Modernization	Northeast	Local/HX	\$1,360,000.00
Town of Clarkdale	FY22 Design FY24 Construction	Yavapai	Broadway Overlay - Phase 2	Roadway Improvements	Broadway Rd.	Major Collector			1	Modernization	North Central	Local/HX	889780
Apache County	FY23 Design FY25 Construction	Apache	<i>MP7.5 - US180A - CR5020 Concho – Snowflake Highway Cold-In-Place-Recycle</i>	Cold-In- Place- Recycle	CR5020	Major Collector	MP7.5	US180A	8.00	Preservation	Northeast	Local/HX	\$896,000.00
Town of Springerville	FY24 Construction	Apache	<i>Pima Drive Reconstruction</i>	Full depth reconstruction	Pima Dr	FCC*	US 60	Navajo	0.21	Modernization	Northeast	Local/HX	\$313,000.00
City of Cottonwood	FY23 Construction	Yavapai	<i>Original project removed. Will reprogram</i>									TBD	
City of Williams	FY24 Construction	Coconino	<i>Williams Route 66 East</i>	Roadway Improvements	E. Route 66	Major Collector	ADOT Driveway	I40 Access Control		Modernization	North Central	Local/HX	\$750,000.00
Town of Camp Verde	FY25 Design FY27 Constructoin	Yavapai	<i>Main Street &amp; Montezuma Castle Highway Intersection Realignment</i>	Intersection Realignment	Main St./MCH	Major Collector	Montezuma Castle Hwy (Y slip)	Main/Turner St./MCH	0.15	Modernization	North Central	Local/HX	\$1,604,500.00
City of Show Low	FY25 Construction	Navajo	<i>North 11th Street Roadway Improvements</i>	Roadway Improvement	N. 11th St	Minor Collector	E. Huning	E. Cooley	0.20	Modernization	Northeast	Local/HX	\$558,000.00
Coconino County	FY26/27	Coconino	<i>TBD</i>								North Central		
Town of Springerville	FY26	Apache	<i>Tumbling T Drive Reconstruction</i>	Roadway Improvements	Tubmling T Dr.	FCC*	4th St.	Main St (US 60)	0.49	Modernization	Northeast	Local/HX	\$628,352.00
City of Holbrook	FY26 Design FY28 Construction	Navajo	<i>No project will be submitted at this time</i>								Northeast		

\* Pending functional classification change

Awaiting project information