

Every Day Counts (EDC) Arizona Local Public Agency (AZLPA) Stakeholder Council Meeting Minutes

DATE: Thursday, June 15, 2017

TIME: 10:00AM - 2:00PM

LOCATION: Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG) – 302 N. 1st Ave, Phoenix, AZ 85003

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Welcome by Jodi Rooney.

RECAP AND SUMMARY OF MARCH 9, 2017 MEETING AND TOPICS

The topics from the March 9, 2017 meeting are as follows:

- Highway User Revenue Fund (HURF) Exchange.
- Lisa Danka and Patrick Stone presented information on the HURF Exchange to the group.

Feedback from the June 15, 2017 meeting topic include:

HURF Exchange Items

- 2 year construction is too tight of a timeline. Why would we be stricter with the time than what it takes to get completed now? ADOT has determined this to be the timeframe. In the past, there was an issue with some projects not moving forward. This money is meant to circulate in quick fashion. It is reasonable to expect this project to progress in a quicker fashion since it is not federally funded. Response: If you need a longer timeline consider using federal funds to complete your project.
- Define what constructed means in the policy as construction projects can have constraints such as legal issues pertaining to acquiring Right-of-Way. Is the 2 year construction timeline from when a project is cleared, or from when it is initially started? Response: When an acceptance letter has been received that defines constructed. Design must be completed.
- Jason Kelly put together procedures for the HURF Exchange policy for the Northern Arizona Council of Governments (NACOG). He outlined what to expect in year 1, 2 and 3. Response: It is preferred for ADOT to provide guidance as information is not yet finalized.
- Tribes cannot use the HURF Exchange funds; however they can possibly partner with another agency such as the county to access funds.
- The HURF Exchange Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA) is with the Attorney General's office. The policy is almost finalized.
- Is it possible for there to be standardized work for all COG and MPOs for this program? Response: HURF Exchange entrance letter and tools are anticipated to be available at or around the end of July 15, 2017.

20/30/30/20 Items

- Perhaps at the 2 year mark there can be a project review. Consider a review at 30%, 60% and at 90%. During the last 10% is when the COG and MPO puts money into their project.

General Feedback

- HURF funds will not work well with large projects.
Response: This program was designed for greater Arizona to utilize, which tend to be smaller projects.
- With staffing issues in some COG and MPO locations, there may be some hesitation using the HURF funds as it shifts control away from ADOT and requires more staff with the local.
- Participants indicated that they do not see and/or have contact with ADOT project managers regarding their projects. Not much oversight. They would like to see this change.
- Most Council of Governments (COG), Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPO) and cities have to go before a committee for authorization. This can be time consuming and add to the overall timeline of getting a project underway.
Response: This process is to be expected and the project bidding process can add to the time issue as well; please plan accordingly.

PARTICIPANT FEEDBACK AND OPEN DISCUSSION

What is the future of Predictive Modeling? ADOT and FHWA to look at education possibly using Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) funds.

FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION (FHWA) UPDATE

Update by Ed Stillings, Senior Transportation Planner

- FHWA is experiencing a staff shortage. Please be patient with timelines on projects at this time.
- A staff rotation will be taking place by July. This will allow an FHWA person from another location to fill Randy Everett's position for 4 months. Most vacancies cannot be filled at this time.
- FHWA will be hiring for an Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) position.
- The Buy America court decision is in limbo. No updates at this time.
- FHWA drafted guidelines for preliminary scoping is not yet finalized.
- Lisa Neie with FHWA is working on Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) new standards.

TIMELINE TO OBLIGATION

- Reviewed the Timeline to Obligation document and the dates listed.
- LPAs would like communication from their ADOT project manager when their local project goes to PRB.
- Try to get the Local Public Agency (LPA) representative involved earlier on a project and if possible have them attend COG and MPO meetings.
- The group stated that the Joint Project Agreement/Intergovernmental Agreement (IGA/JPA) timeline for review is too short. They need more than 1 week to review. Most IGA and JPA documents need to go past a committee and most committees only meet once a month. The IGA from initiation to execution could take 6 months because of multiple parties involved.
- It was commented for ADOT to send the JPA/IGA documents one at a time to the local instead of batching them together.

MEETING GUEST AND TOPIC – ARIZONA MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS (AMS)

Presentation by Dallas Hammit, Deputy Director for Transportation/State Engineer

Dallas presented on the new direction ADOT is taking with revising processes to make them more efficient.

- See attached presentation.

ROUNDTABLE

Legislative Issues - Noted by Kevin Adam:

- Federal budget has been passed, however it is a smaller operating budget.
- Mission critical hiring for federal employees only.
- 5 new states increased their gas tax. That makes 22 total. Arizona is falling behind as it is not acquiring enough funds for infrastructure projects.

Other:

- On Pima County projects, cost estimates have been moving faster on smaller projects.
- It was noted that ADOT staff attendance is appreciated and helpful to provide information. There is an understanding that ADOT staff is not always able to attend meetings.
- Planning Assistance for Rural Areas (PARA) Program has been useful.

Topics for Upcoming Meetings:

- Americans with Disabilities Act requirements.
- HSIP call for projects.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The group was asked to think about 2018 meeting dates and report back as to what will work best.
- There may be a schedule conflict for the September 14, 2017 meeting. There is a Civil Rights meeting scheduled for that same day.

ADJOURN

June 15, 2017 at 1:55 pm

ATTACHMENTS

- June 15, 2017 sign-in sheet
- Timeline to Obligation spreadsheet
- AMS Presentation
- ROAD Portal announcement