



SEAGO TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES FOR MARCH 20, 2025

Date:	March 20, 2025		
Time:	10 a.m.		
Location:	Zoom		
Voting TAC Members Present	Tom Palmer (Vice-Chair), Thatcher Jennifer Hobert, ADOT Bradley Simmons, Cochise County Terry Hinton, Duncan Leonard Fontes, Santa Cruz County Lance Henrie, Safford Abel Escalante, Douglas	Emanuel Stuart, Bisbee Vernon Batty, Pima Juan Guerra, Nogales	
Guests, Staff, and Other Attendees	Chris Vertrees, SEAGO John Merideth, SEAGO Dylan Renner, ADOT Travis Fast, Cochise County Brian Jervas, ADOT	Heather Glenn, SEAGO Angelica Novoa, SEAGO	

1. Call to Order and Introductions

2. Call to the Public

No one from the public was present.

3. Approval of Minutes for 1/16/25

Vice Chair Tom Palmer asked the TAC to review the minutes from the January 16, 2025, meeting for needed corrections. He then made a motion to approve and requested a second.

MOTION: Leonard Fontes made a motion to approve

SECOND: Bradley Simmons

ACTION: APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

4. District Engineers' Report

Brian Jervas from ADOT provided an update for the District advising that most of the information is the same from last month: Working on the east TI in Willcox; they are doing some rehab work so it will take longer to do that expected; still working on the roundabout at the 3-way and running a little behind schedule. They will be doing some paving in Clifton probably next month when the plant moves there. Upcoming advertisements include the Cochise railroad overpass bridge on 191 which will be a \$40mil job; Paving from Ray Lane to 8th St.; Paving on 70; and some Passenger Lane jobs on the San Carlos Apache Tribe; westbound lanes between Bios and Peridot; and eastbound lanes by the hospital in Peridot.

5. STBG Ledger Report

Chris Vertrees referred the TAC to page 6 of the agenda packet. He advised that there were only a couple of changes:

The pavement assessment project was added to the ledger that was approved by TAC at the January 16 meeting. He stated it was also approved by the Executive Board at their February 21 meeting. Chris stated he will be processing a loan with ADOT for \$160,000 that will be made available next fiscal year.

He shared that he would have to borrow approximately \$600,000 for the Chino Road project in Douglas. He

stated that the ledger lists \$700,000 for the project, but he is expecting a return of \$150,000 sometime before the next fiscal year that they had committed to Clifton, who has now canceled their Chase Creek project, so we are expecting to borrow a little less than \$600,000 to get the Chino Road project done.

Once that's completed, he stated the ledger is looking pretty good even subtracting a loan that high. He's expecting STGB to call for projects in July that will reflect FY28/FY29.

6. TIP Report

Chris Vertrees advised that no TIP Amendments have been requested for this meeting. Mr. Vertrees highlighted the following amendments to the TIP that have been made since the group's last meeting:

SEA 22-01 – (SEAGO Region Road Pavement Assessment Project Extension): The technical service contract with Vaisala will end on March 31, 2025. At our January TAC meeting, SEAGO recommended a 1-year extension. The TAC voted unanimously to approve the extension. As a result, the following change was requested:

Funding Type: STBG

Project Year: FY25

Federal Cost: \$96,436

Local Match: \$5,829

Total Project Cost: \$102,265

This amendment was approved at our TAC Meeting on 1/16/25 and by our Executive Board on 2/21/25.

In addition to the above amendment request, the following administrative additions were added to the TIP:

DGS 25-02 – City of Douglas (City of Douglas Safety Action Plan & Complete Streets Study) - In FY25 the City of Douglas was awarded a Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) Planning and Demonstration Grant in the amount of \$440,000. The project was added to the TIP in the following manner:

Year: FY26

Funding Type: SS4A

Type of Work: Study

Federal Funds: \$440,000

Local Match: \$110,000

Total Cost: \$550,000

GS 25-03 – City of Douglas (Douglas Commercial Transportation Infrastructure Enhancement Project): In FY25 the City of Douglas was awarded a RAISE grant in the amount of \$23,518,381. No local match is required: The project was added to the TIP in the following manner:

Year: FY26

Funding Type: RAISE

Type of Work: ADOT Review/PDA Fees

Federal Funds: \$150,000

Local Match: None

Total Cost: \$50,000

Year: FY26
Funding Type: RAISE
Type of Work: Design
Federal Funds: \$2,700,000
Local Match: None
Total Cost: \$2,700,000

Year: FY27
Funding Type: RAISE
Type of Work: Construction
Federal Funds: \$20,668,381
Local Match: None
Total Cost: \$20,768,381

DGS 24-01 – City of Douglas (Commercial Port of Entry Connector Road): The City of Douglas received a FY24 State Legislative Budget award in the amount of \$8,170,000. The City of Douglas was advised by ADOT that the total amount of the Legislative Appropriation needs to be accounted for in the TIP. Douglas has requested that the funding be programmed in the following manner:

Design: \$400,000
ROW: \$2,000,000
Construction: \$5,770,000

To accommodate this request the following changes have been made to the TIP:

Design:

Design costs for this project were estimated at \$5,000,000. Cochise County received an AZ SMART grant in the amount of \$4,400,000 and will contribute an additional \$100,000 to the project. Douglas' share of the project was \$500,000. The TIP at the time reflected the \$500,000 as one-line item. After discussion with the City, the intent was to use \$400,000 from their legislative award and Douglas would provide \$100,000 from City funds.

The TIP has been amended to separate those two funding sources as follows:

Funding Type: AZ SB1722
Phase: Design
Project Year: FY24
Other Funds: \$400,000

Funding Type: Local
Phase: Design
Project Year: FY24
Other Funds: \$100,000

Right of Way:

The City of Douglas has chosen to use \$2,000,000 of its legislative award for right-of-way acquisition. Douglas expects this phase to begin in FY25. It has been added to the TIP in the following manner:

Funding Type: AZ SB1722
Phase: ROW
Project Year: FY25
Other Funds: \$2,000,000

Construction:

The total remaining funds from the award is \$5,770,000. The project was originally programmed in the TIP for FY25. Douglas expects construction to possibly begin in late FY26. The TIP was amended as follows:

Funding Type: AZ SB1722
Phase: Construction
Project Year: FY26
Other Funds: \$5,770,000

SEAGO 2024-2028 TIP Amendment #12 is attached for your records.

7. Discussion & Approval of FY26-30 Draft TIP (For Public Comment)

The SEAGO Region 2026-2030 TIP needs to be submitted to ADOT by July 1, 2025. Due to the SEAGO TAC, Administrative Council and Executive Board schedules, and the forty-five (45) day public participation process, the 2025-2029 Draft TIP needs to be approved at this meeting for submission to our Administrative and Executive Committees on April 3, 2025.

The following adjustments to the 2024-2028 TIP were made in the drafting of the 2026-2030 TIP:

All FY 2025 projects that are expected to be obligated by June 30, 2025, have been moved to the Obligated in 2025 section of the TIP.

SEAGO needs to ensure that the TIP is fiscally constrained over a consecutive 4-year period. This means that the funds used to pay for the improvements cannot exceed the amount of available funding per funding source. Programmed funding can only include funds that can be reasonably expected to be made available during the year the project is programmed. We have \$1.8 million in STBG commitments over the next 4 years and have \$2,150,858 available in STBG funds. All other TIP projects have a dedicated funding source. The current TIP submitted for your approval is fiscally constrained.

After reviewing the TIP list, Juan Guerra from Nogales announced that pathway the projects listed for Nogales have been completed and requested they be removed from the list.

MOTION: Leonard Fontes made a motion to approve the 2026-2030 TIP as amended to remove the Nogales projects

SECOND: Juan Guerra

ACTION: APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY

8. Federal Climate and Equity Provisions (Changes & Impact)

On March 12, 2025, we received the following notice from the Governor's Office:

Chris advised that the U.S. Department of Transportation's Office of the Secretary has issued internal guidance directing DOT offices and administrations to review competitive grant awards from FY22-25 without grant agreements, as well as partially obligated grant agreements, for potential scope revision if funding is allocated

"to advance climate, equity, and other priorities counter to the Administration's Executive Orders." Specifically, the guidance directs program identification for award selections with elements related to "equity activities, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) activities, climate change activities, environmental justice (EJ) activities, gender-specific activities, where the primary purpose is bicycle infrastructure, electric vehicles (EVs), and EV charging infrastructure."

- Competitive grant programs most likely to be subject to this guidance include FHWA's Charging and Fueling Infrastructure, Low-Carbon Materials, PROTECT discretionary, FTA's Low- and No-Emissions Bus, and the Reconnecting Communities Program (funded by BIL and IRA).
- The Safe Streets for All program, this program would likely be subject to the guidance as well.

Chris advised that we are currently developing an inventory of Federal competitive grants awarded since FY 2022 to provide to the Governor's office. Chris stated that he was aware of the following that can be impacted by this guidance:

- * Douglas-SS4A (Complete Streets Study)
- * Douglas-RAISE Grant (Douglas Commercial Transportation Infrastructure Project)
- * Santa Cruz County - Reconnecting Communities Grant (Ruby Road Bridge Over Potrero Creek and the UPRR)
- * Cochise County - Charging & Fueling Infrastructure Grant (Various Sites in Cochise County)
- * Cochise County – Raise Grant (Davis Road -SR191 to SR80 Planning Grant)

Chris asked the TAC if was missing any projects. No one spoke.

9. Transportation Alternatives Program Update

Chris Vertrees stated that he received several requests concerning the ADOT schedule involving the Transportation Alternatives Program. The following is the last update received from ADOT's TA Program Manager:

- * Call for Projects is expected to be March 24, 2025 (it may include FY 26 & 27 funding).
- * Substantial updates to the online application and TA Resources were required and will be completed by March 14.
- * The TA website will be updated in the week of March 17 in advance of the Call for Projects.

He has had several discussions with local agencies interested in pursuing Safe Routes to School applications. The latest information received is that School Districts will be eligible to apply but will be required to have a local agency such as a city or county sponsor. He explained that they found some of the schools didn't have enough experience with the process or projects.

Mr. Vertrees stated he would forward the Call for Projects as soon as it is received.

10. RTAC Project List & Legislative Update

Chris Vertrees referred the agenda to page 19 of the agenda packet. He advised that he provided the group with the legislative update, as well as the RTAC project list that was submitted to the legislature for funding. Not all of the projects get funded even though they are projecting an approximate \$600million surplus. He stated our RTAC project list totaled \$400million, so not all of them will get funded, but he expected a good portion of them would be. He was told that at the last Legislative meeting, each Senator was given approximately \$20million to spend in their respective districts. He encouraged everyone to contact their Representative and Senate district legislators without delay to get their support because the process to get funding will be competitive and the funds will go fast. He also encouraged members to involve their Mayors and Councilmembers in the process, as well.

He also said that RTAC advised that the SMART Fund is almost exhausted and they have projected that the needs for the next couple of years will take approximately \$33million to re-fund the program to continue at the current pace. He said the Cochise TAC has captured approximately \$12million from SMART funding, especially for the small jurisdictions.

11. ADOT LPA Section Updates

Jennifer Hobart from ADOT was in attendance to provide updates regarding ADOT LPA.

12. Regional Local Programs Reports

Those in attendance reported their current status of local projects and issues.

13. Items for General Discussion

Chris Vertrees, SEAGO, stated that he sent notice to TAC, Administrative Council, and Executive Board members that the continuing resolution did not include any additional funding for the applications we submitted for CDS for last year. They are refocusing their attention on FY26 trying to get that through the appropriation process. They are expecting the call for CDS requests/projects to come sometime next week. You will need to resubmit, but they are telling us that there will be a box within the application that you can check that you submitted in FY25. The goal is to push those projects to the top of the list as much as possible. If they can get a budget approved in September with the FY26 awards, then we'll be able to access them in October.

At the next TAC meeting we will probably begin starting on the RTAC list for next year. We will have a discussion in May about moving up any projects that didn't get funded this year. We're anticipating several projects to be funded at the state level but reach out to your legislators. We want to get ahead of the curve.

If there are any comments on the TIP, they will have to be discussed at the next meeting as well.

14. Next Meeting Date: 5/15/25, 10:00 a.m.

15. Meeting Adjourned at 10:44 a.m.