



ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL PACKET

MEMO TO: ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL
FROM: CHRISTOPHER VERTREES, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
DATE: AUGUST 6, 2026
SUBJECT: ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL MEETING

Please see the details below for the Administrative Council meeting date, time, and location.

**Thursday, August 6, 2026, at 9:00 a.m.
Microsoft Teams Only**

[Administrative Council Meeting Link](#)

Meeting ID: 255 881 166 443 53

Passcode: w6i4oi2Z

The Administrative Council Packet will be sent to members through e-mail (via a link to the packet posted on the SEAGO website) to save postage and copying costs. **We will not be mailing a hard copy of the packet unless you request one.**

If you have any questions, please call me at (520) 432-5301 Extension 202. You can also send an e-mail to cdvertrees@seago.org.



ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL AGENDA

9:00 A.M., THURSDAY, AUGUST 6, 2026
Microsoft Teams Meeting Only
Link: [Administrative Council Meeting Link](#)

- | | | |
|--|-----------------|-----------------|
| I. CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
/ INTRODUCTIONS | Chair Volker | |
| II. MEMBER ENTITIES' DISCUSSION
(Common Critical Issues) | Chair Volker | |
| III. CALL TO THE PUBLIC | Chair Volker | |
| IV. ACTION ITEMS | | <u>Page No.</u> |
| 1. Consent Agenda | Chair Volker | 1 |
| a. Approval of May 1, 2025, Minutes | | |
| 2. Discussion and possible action to approve ACOA Nominations | Celeste Vasquez | 7 |
| 3. Discussion and possible action to recommend the approval of
Resolution 2026-02 SEAGO's Title VI Plan | Chris Vertrees | 9 |
| 4. Discussion and possible action Brownfields Grant QEP
Procurement | Chris Vertrees | 11 |
| 5. Discussion and possible action Cochise County Private Sector
Representative | Chris Vertrees | 12 |
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VI. STAFF ANNOUNCEMENTS/ CURRENT EVENTS	Chair Volker	N/A
VII. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS	Chair Volker	N/A
VIII.ADJOURNMENT	Chair Volker	N/A

DIRECTION MAY BE GIVEN TO SEAGO STAFF ON ANY ITEM ON THE AGENDA.

Individuals with disabilities who require special accommodations or who have limited English proficiency and wish to have an interpreter may contact Diane Becerra at (520) 432-5301, extension 207 at least 72 hours before the meeting time to request such accommodations.

Individuals wishing to participate in the meeting telephonically may do so by contacting Diane Becerra at (520) 432-5301 extension 207. Contact must be made at least 48 hours before the meeting in order to obtain the call-in information. Please note that the option to participate telephonically may not be available unless requested as instructed above.

Si necesita acomodaciones especiales o un intérprete para esta conferencia, debe ponerse en contacto con Diane Becerra al número (520) 432-5301, extensión 207, por lo menos setenta y dos (72) horas antes de la conferencia.

**DRAFT MINUTES OF
THE ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL MEETING
9:00 AM, THURSDAY, MAY 7, 2026
TEAMS ONLINE MEETING**

OFFICERS PRESENT: Derek Rapier, Vice-Chair, Greenlee County
Jesus Valdez, Secretary, Santa Cruz County
Heath Brown, Treasurer, Thatcher

MEMBERS PRESENT: Vernon Batty, Pima
Eric Bejerano, Safford
Cindy Blackmore, Clifton
Terry Hinton, Duncan
Robert Kirschman, Willcox
Christine McLachlan, Cochise County
Steve Pauken, Nogales
Jeff Pregler, Sierra Vista
Ron Robinson, Patagonia
Ana Urquijo, Douglas
Greg Volker, Benson
Dustin Welker, Graham County

STAFF PRESENT: Chris Vertrees, Executive Director/Transport Prog Manager
John Merideth, IT Manager
Dina Curtiss, Finance Manager
Will Osborne, CDBG Manager
Carrie Vaughn, AAA Deputy Program Director
Angelica Novoa, Technical Services/ Training Coordinator
Maria Valles, Community Coordinator
Heather Glenn, Administrative Assistant

I. CALL TO ORDER/PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE / INTRODUCTIONS

A quorum was confirmed, Secretary Jesus Valdez called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. and requested Heather Glenn to call roll.

II. MEMBER ENTITIES' DISCUSSION

Eric Bejarano stated that Safford is finalizing city manager interviews tomorrow and expects a council decision after Monday's executive session. **Christine McLachlan**, advised Cochise County is updating its building codes with planned adoption in mid-July; the County will host a public meeting on its first affordable housing plan on June 11 at 5:30 PM; and that

the County has contracted BEC Environmental Inc. to administer a brownfield revolving loan fund; the contract is active May 19 and site nomination forms are available. **Steve Pauken** reported he is interim Nogales city manager through mid-June; Nogales is operating with multiple interim or vacant department head positions and experienced a delayed budget process that is now being rolled out to the mayor and council. **Jeff Pregler** advised Sierra Vista's general plan update is anticipated for ballot placement in November—and noted recent completion of several multi-use paths and pending grant applications for further path projects. **Derek Rapier** reported Greenlee County is in process of rewriting its planning and zoning ordinance with outside consultants provided updates on park and pavement projects. **Ana Urquijo** provided extensive Douglas updates: the two-port utility corridor with \$19M raised and a \$30M funding gap, ADOT/RAISE grant activity for \$23.5M in commercial road work and safety improvements, Chino Road realignment tied to Highway 191, annexation efforts to the west, new commercial developments under construction, and a schedule of community events for Douglas's 125th anniversary that she will circulate. **Jesus Valdez** reported that Santa Cruz County is working on its budget and will start public outreach next week for a comprehensive plan and that a spring chip seal program is underway for road maintenance. **Greg Volker** shared that Benson adopted the 2024 building code and is actively recruiting a city planner. **Dustin Welker** reported that Graham County received CDBG support and opened bids for an 18,000 sq ft ADA sidewalk and parking project at the fairgrounds. **Vernon Batty** advised Pima is pursuing multiple funding sources, including SBRC and a \$1M allocation from Juan Ciscomani's office, for a school road and stoplight project. **Cindy Blackmore** reported that budget season is underway, that a CDBG senior center upgrade and a bridge project are progressing toward bidding after easement resolution, the town replaced extremely outdated servers and procured new phones and professional IT support, refurbished the splash pad for Memorial Day weekend, and plans to begin a planning and zoning rewrite in July after budget season. **Robert Kirschmann** said Wilcox is advancing affordable housing on city-owned land and is using a brownfield grant to evaluate a capped landfill for potential parking expansion.

III. CALL TO THE PUBLIC

No one from the public was present.

IV. ACTION ITEMS

1. Consent Agenda

a. Approval of February 5, 2026, Meeting Minutes

MOTION: Cindy Blackmore

SECOND: Derek Rapier

ACTION: Unanimous

2. Election of Officers

Chris Vertrees provided an overview about the election, stating that all current officers are willing to continue in their current positions, with the exception of Chair because Steve Pauken retired. He then reviewed the two options for the election. Steve Pauken stated he supports Greg Volker as Chair, as recommended in Option One.

Steve Pauken recommended approval of Option One with the following slate of nominees:

Chair	Greg Volker, Benson, representing Cochise County
Vice Chair	Derek Rapier, Greenlee County, representing Greenlee County
Secretary	Jesus Valdez, Santa Cruz County, representing Santa Cruz County
Treasurer	Heath Brown, Thatcher, representing Graham County

MOTION: Steve Pauken

SECOND: Robert Kirschmann

ACTION: Unanimous

3. SEAGO Member Assessments

Chris Vertrees presented required dues adjustments following the mid-decade 2025 population estimates and explained the resulting changes to the member assessment schedule, noting Graham County experienced the largest increase while most changes were limited. He also explained how RTAC assessment changes affect member agency obligations and how SEGO will subsidize a portion through transportation planning funds.

Derek Rapier recommended approval of the Fiscal Year 2027 Assessment Schedule to the SEAGO Executive Board.

MOTION: Derek Rapier

SECOND: Ana Urquijo

ACTION: Unanimous

4. FY27 Sustainability of Fund Balance

Chris Vertrees provided background on the SEAGO budget reserves showing a year-end balance slightly over \$2.4 million, operating expenditures from the prior year of a little over \$2.5 million, and a potential usable fund balance around \$1.144 million. He noted they did not expect to use reserves this year and highlighted pending grant awards that could change the budget.

5. FY27 SEAGO Budget

Dina Curtiss provided information on reserves showing a year-end balance slightly over \$2.4 million, operating expenditures from the prior year of a little over \$2.5 million, and a potential usable fund balance around \$1.144 million; staff noted they did not expect to use reserves this year and highlighted pending grant awards that could change the budget.

Steve Pauken recommended approval of the Fiscal Year 2027 SEAGO Budget to the SEAGO Executive Board.

MOTION: Steve Pauken

SECOND: Ana Urquijo

ACTION: Unanimous

6. Classification Plan Update

Chris Vertrees recommended consolidating the standalone economic development program into a combined Community and Economic Development Program Manager role to improve efficiency, reduce duplication, strengthen grant competitiveness, and better align project timing. This requires eliminating the current economic development program manager position, adjusting salary grade, and is expected to yield salary and benefit savings.

Ana Urquijo moved to recommend approval of the proposed classification plan update to the Executive Board.

MOTION: Ana Urquijo

SECOND: Derek Rapier

ACTION: Unanimous

7. Approval of IGA with Santa Cruz County

Chris Vertrees described the regional pavement assessment contract with Vaisala and explained Santa Cruz County's request to collect additional local miles under the existing contract; the proposed IGA covers 400 miles for \$9,200 for 12 months, shifts only driving cost to the county, adds no extra cost to SEGO under the vendor contract, and has been reviewed by both attorneys.

Cindy Blackmore made a motion to recommend approval of the intergovernmental agreement between SEAGO and Santa Cruz County to the Executive Board.

MOTION: Cindy Blackmore

SECOND: Steve Pauken

ACTION: Unanimous

8. Discussion and possible action to recommend approval of the proposed representatives for appointment to fill Advisory Council on Aging vacancies

Carrie Vaughn reported two interested nominees, Betty “Ann” Peschka from Nogales and Jorge Maldonado, Santa Cruz County Unincorporated, for Advisory Council on Aging vacancies and the committee voted to recommend their appointments.

Steve Pauken moved to approve Betty “Ann” Peschka for appointment to the vacant City of Nogales seat and Jorge Maldonado for appointment as the Santa Cruz County Unincorporated representative on the Advisory Council on Aging, and to forward these recommendations to the SEAGO Executive Board.

MOTION: Steve Pauken

SECOND: Derek Rapier

ACTION: Unanimous

V. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. Future Meeting Dates

Chris Vertrees announced the next meeting is scheduled for August 6, 2026.

B. Quarterly Finance Report

Dina Curtiss gave an update on the quarterly finance report and answered questions.

C. IT Updates

John Merideth provided an update on IT and answered questions.

D. AAA Area Plan on Aging

E. AAA Program Updates

Carrie Vaughn gave an update on AAA programs and legislation and answered questions.

F. CDBG Updates

William Osborne gave an update on community development block grant projects answered questions.

G. Community Development Report

William Osborne gave an update on community development and answered questions.

H. SEAGO Economic Development District Report

Chris Vertrees gave an update on economic development and answered questions.

J. Transportation Program Updates

Chris Vertrees gave an update on Transportation and answered questions.

VII. STAFF ANNOUNCEMENTS / CURRENT EVENTS

Chris Vertrees reminded members to let him know if they had any items for the agenda for the upcoming meeting.

VIII. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Chris Vertrees announced that the next Administrative Council meeting would be held Thursday, August 6, 2026 via TEAMS.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Volker adjourned the meeting at 10:39 a.m.

DRAFT



ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL PACKET

MEMO TO: ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL
FROM: CELESTE VASQUEZ, AREA AGENCY ON AGING DIRECTOR
DATE: AUGUST 6, 2026
SUBJECT: NOMINATIONS FOR VACANT ADVISORY COUNCIL ON AGING MEMBER SEATS

Background

The Advisory Council on Aging's (ACOA) revised bylaws, dated **February 21, 2025**, establish the Council's composition, membership requirements, and term limits.

Article III – Composition and Membership, Section A.1. specifies that the ACOA shall consist of eighteen (18) members allocated as follows:

- Cochise County – eight (8) representatives
- Graham County – four (4) representatives
- Greenlee County – three (3) representatives
- Santa Cruz County – three (3) representatives

Section A.1.a. further requires that at least ten (10) members be sixty (60) years of age or older and that every effort be made to ensure representation of individuals with the greatest economic or social need, minority individuals, and participants in services funded by the Agency.

Section B.4. states that members appointed by the SEAGO Executive Board shall serve three-year terms and are limited to two (2) consecutive terms. A previous member may be reappointed only if a vacancy cannot be filled within ninety (90) days. The Advisory Council on Aging may submit a member to the Executive Board for reappointment for an additional term when eligible.

Current Vacancies

There are currently five **(5) vacant seats** on the Advisory Council on Aging. Members are selected to represent incorporated cities, towns, and unincorporated areas within each county. The current vacancies are as follows:

Cochise County (4 Vacancies)

- Huachuca City – one (1) seat
- City of Sierra Vista – one (1) seat
- City of Willcox – one (1) seat
- County Unincorporated – one (1) seat

Greenlee County (1 Vacancy)

- County Unincorporated – one (1) seat

Term Expiration and Reappointment Eligibility

One current Advisory Council on Aging member reached the maximum allowable consecutive terms:

- **Greenlee County – County Unincorporated**
 - **Member:** *Mr. Jaime Aguilar*
 - Mr. Aguilar's second consecutive three-year term expired on **April 20, 2026**.
 - In accordance with **Article III, Section B.4.**, he is **eligible for reappointment**, as this vacancy has remained unfilled for ninety (90) days.

Appointment Term and Effective Date

Nominated representatives approved by the SEAGO Executive Board will commence their three-year term on the date of Board approval. The next scheduled Executive Board meeting is **August 27, 2026**.

Attachments: None

Action Requested:

☐

Information Only

☒

Action Requested Below:

A motion to approve the appointment of Jaime Aguilar as the ACOA representative for Greenlee County Unincorporated, to the SEAGO Executive Board.



ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL PACKET

MEMO TO: ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL
FROM: CHRISTOPHER VERTREES, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
DATE: AUGUST 6, 2026
SUBJECT: CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION NO. 2026-02

In response to the requirements of Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), Federal Transit Administration (FTA), and ADOT, SEAGO developed a Title VI Plan in July 2011. The purpose of the Plan is to describe how SEAGO intends to ensure that underserved individuals are provided meaningful opportunities to become involved in the transportation planning process within the SEAGO region. At the time this iteration of the Plan was developed, there was no federal requirement that such a plan be approved by an agency's governing board. Since that time, the FTA has revised its Circular 4702.1 B, which, among other things, now requires approval of Title VI plans by an agency's governing board.

While ADOT will accept the minutes of a meeting as evidence of governing board approval, the minutes do not become official until approved at a subsequent meeting. Because meetings of the SEAGO Executive Board occur quarterly, approval of the August 27th meeting minutes will not be considered until November – well after the deadline for ADOT to submit our Title VI plan to FTA. Therefore, I have prepared a Resolution for your consideration which, if adopted, will provide immediate evidence of the Executive Board's approval of SEAGO's Title VI Implementation and Public Participation Plan dated August 1, 2026.

Due to the volume of paper, the Title VI Plan would add to your meeting packet, we have posted the Plan to SEAGO's website for your review. The Plan is available for your review or download at any time by clicking the following link:

<https://www.keepandshare.com/doc12/view.php?id=260503&da=y>

I'll be pleased to answer any questions you may have at your meeting.

Attachments: Resolution No. 2026-02

Action Requested: ☐ Information Only ☒ Action Requested Below

A motion to recommend approval of Resolution No. 2026-02 to the Executive Board.



SouthEastern Arizona Governments Organization

Serving our member governments and their constituents since 1972

RESOLUTION NO. 2026-02

A RESOLUTION OF THE SOUTHEASTERN ARIZONA GOVERNMENTS ORGANIZATION APPROVING THE ORGANIZATION'S TITLE VI IMPLEMENTATION AND PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PLAN DATED AUGUST 1, 2026

SEAGO Member Entities

Cochise County

Benson

Bisbee

Douglas

Huachuca City

Sierra Vista

Tombstone

Willcox

Graham County

Pima

Safford

San Carlos

Apache Tribe

Thatcher

Greenlee County

Clifton

Duncan

Santa Cruz County

Nogales

Patagonia

SEAGO Main Office

Administration Community and Economic Dev. Transportation

1403 W. Hwy 92

Bisbee, AZ 85603

520-432-5301

520-432-5858 Fax

Area Agency on Aging Office

1403 B Hwy 92

Bisbee, AZ 85603

520-432-2528

520-432-9168 Fax

www.seago.org

WHEREAS, the SouthEastern Arizona Governments Organization (SEAGO) is a council of governments serving the four-county region of Cochise, Graham, Greenlee, and Santa Cruz Counties; and

WHEREAS, the SouthEastern Arizona Governments Organization is a subrecipient of funding from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Federal Transit Administration (FTA) passed through Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT), to carry out an annual work plan consisting of transportation and public transit planning activities; and

WHEREAS, Pursuant to 23 CFR 635.102, ADOT has the authority to delegate project administration and management to subrecipients and Local Public Agencies (LPAs) including any city, county, township, municipality, or other political subdivision that may be empowered to cooperate with the ADOT in highway matters; and

WHEREAS, as an LPA and subrecipient of FHWA and FTA funding, SEAGO is required to carry out its transportation planning duties and obligations in accordance with all applicable federal requirements, including but not limited to Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which requires outreach to underserved groups; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with Title VI requirements, SEAGO has developed a Title VI Implementation and Public Participation Plan, the purpose of which is to describe how SEAGO intends to ensure that underserved individuals are provided meaningful opportunities to become involved in the transportation planning process within the SEAGO region; and

WHEREAS, FTA Circular 4 702.1 B, as revised, now requires Governing Board approval of Title VI plans.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the SEAGO Executive Board hereby approves the SEAGO Title VI Implementation and Public Participation Plan dated August 1, 2026.

Passed and adopted by the SEAGO Executive Board on this 27th day of August 2026.

Jorge Maldonado,,
Executive Board Chair

Christopher Vertrees,
Executive Director



ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL PACKET

MEMO TO: ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL
FROM: CHRISTOPHER VERTREES, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
DATE: AUGUST 6, 2026
SUBJECT: BROWNFIELDS COALITION ASSESSMENT GRANT

SEAGO is pleased to announce that our application for the Brownfield Assessment Coalition Grant was a success. We are scheduled for the \$1,500,000 grant to be funded this October. Eligible Activities include inventorying potential Brownfields sites, conducting Phase I and Phase II environmental site assessments, community outreach, cleanup planning, and reuse planning. The grant will fund activities in Cochise, Graham, Greenlee and Santa Cruz Counties.

Implementation of this program will require highly technical work in environmental studies. Therefore, the procurement of a Qualified Environmental Professional (QEP) is needed. We fully anticipate that the costs of engaging such a consultant will significantly exceed the procurement threshold of \$20,000 that triggers Executive Board approval before going to bid. The costs of the QEP will be funded through the grant.

We are therefore requesting your recommendation to the Executive Board to authorize us to prepare and publish a request for proposals, evaluate proposals received, and enter into a contract with a Qualified Environmental Professional consultant to assist in implementing our Brownfield Assessment Coalition Grant. Our goal is to have a QEP in place early in the first quarter of the 2027 Federal Fiscal Year (October – December 2027). Updates to our progress and plans for rolling out the program will follow at our November meetings.

Attachment: EPA Grant Award Notice

Action Requested: ☐ Information Only ☒ Action Requested Below:

A motion to recommend that the Executive Board authorize staff to publish a request for proposals, evaluate proposals received, and enter into a contract with a Qualified Environmental Professional consultant to implement SEAGO's Brownfield Assessment Coalition Grant.



ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL PACKET

MEMO TO: ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL

FROM: CHRISTOPHER VERTREES, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

DATE: AUGUST 6, 2026

SUBJECT: VACANCY – COCHISE COUNTY PRIVATE SECTOR REPRESENTATIVE ON THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

As you are aware, our Executive Board must include private sector representation as a requirement of the Economic Development Administration. Per SEAGO's Bylaws, Private Sector Representatives must represent a low income or minority group, or representative organization, or represent the principal economic interests in the region, such as, but not limited to, industry, finance, utilities, education, agriculture, or labor.

In May, Heather Floyd reached the end of her second term of office and is therefore ineligible to continue serving as a PSR. Heather has recommended that Mignonne Hollis to fill her vacancy.

Ms. Hollis is currently employed as the Executive Director for the Arizona Regional Economic Development Foundation (ARED). Her community involvement and leadership roles include service on the Board of Trustees for the Canyon Vista Medical Center, serving as the President of Good Neighbor Alliance and President of Premier Alliances as well as an appointment to the Arizona Commerce Authority Board of Directors.

Ms. Hollis is exceptionally qualified and meets the EDA PSR requirements. Her experience in economic and community development would be a welcome addition to the SEAGO Executive Board.

I will look forward to answering any questions at the meeting.

Attachments: Mignonne Hollis – Letter of Interest and Resume

Action Requested: ☐ Information Only ☒ Action Requested Below:

A motion to recommend the appointment of Mignonne Hollis to serve a two-year term as the Cochise County Private Sector Representative on the Executive Board.

July 28, 2026

SEAGO Executive Board
SouthEastern Arizona Governments Organization
1403 W. Highway 92
Bisbee, AZ 85603

Subject: Letter of Interest for SEAGO Board Membership

Dear Members of the Executive Board,

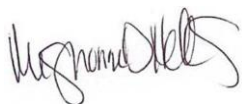
I am writing to formally express my interest in serving on the SouthEastern Arizona Governments Organization (SEAGO) Executive Board. As a resident of Cochise County, I am deeply committed to the sustainable development, economic resilience, and overall quality of life in our southeastern Arizona region. I welcome the opportunity to contribute to SEAGO's vital mission of fostering regional cooperation.

Through my background in serving the Cochise County area on various hospital boards, serving as the President of Good Neighbor Alliance, President of Premier Alliances coupled with my full-time job as the Executive Director of the Arizona Regional Economic Development Foundation, I have developed a strong understanding of the unique challenges and opportunities facing our local communities. I am particularly interested in supporting SEAGO's strategic initiatives in economic development as well as housing. I believe that regional challenges require collaborative solutions, and I am eager to help bridge local needs with regional resources.

If appointed, I am prepared to dedicate the necessary time and energy to actively participate in board meetings, engage with member entities, and advocate for policies that benefit our shared region. My goal is to ensure that our communities continue to thrive through smart planning and efficient service delivery.

Thank you for your time, consideration, and continued leadership in southeastern Arizona. I welcome the opportunity to discuss how my background aligns with the current needs of the SEAGO Executive Board.

Sincerely,



Mignon D Hollis

Mignonne Desiree Hollis

Thehollisgirls@Outlook.com • LinkedIn
520-226-6019 • Hereford, AZ

Executive Director Profile

Specialize in strategic economic development with demonstrated history of fostering regional growth, adept at formulating and implementing policies that spur economic progress and community revitalization.

Skillfully navigate complexities of government and private sector dynamics to secure and allocate resources effectively, ensuring projects not only align with organizational missions but also achieve financial viability. Exceptionally proficient in crafting partnerships across educational institutions, industry groups, and state agencies, enhancing regional economic initiatives. Expertise in legislative analysis, workforce development, and infrastructure planning, underpinning record of transformative leadership and community engagement. Proven knowledge of financial analysis and strategic planning, equipped to drive organizational objectives and economic policies at highest levels of executive leadership.

Areas of Expertise

- Strategic Planning
- Economic Development
- Policy Formulation
- Financial Analysis
- Resource Allocation
- Legislative Analysis
- Grant Management
- Partnership Building
- Workforce Development

Career Experience

Arizona Regional Economic Development Foundation, Location
Executive Director

2010 – Present

Develop policies and procedures for economic development programs in Cochise County. Formulate strategic and operational plans targeting long and short-range economic objectives. Compile comprehensive inventory of community buildings and sites for economic use and monitor business transitions within area. Monitor and analyze local, state, and federal legislation and regulations impacting economic development; communicate findings and trends to Board. Forge and promote workforce development strategies aiding in employee recruitment, training, and retention for current and prospective employers. Cultivate and maintain relationships with current and potential businesses and industries within area

- Engaged with government officials, lenders, Chamber of Commerce, Arizona Commerce Authority, private sector companies, and economic development professionals to influence local and state policy changes and promote industrial, commercial, and new development.
- Established partnerships with local, state, and regional entities including educational institutions, industry organizations, and state agencies for economic development initiatives and projects.
- Facilitated interactions between industrial business owners, building developers, marketing and financial firms, as well as transportation and utility companies, with federal, state, regional, and county agencies concerning loans, grants, research data, and educational resources for economic development.
- Spearheaded initiation of new projects, conducting research on prospective projects that align with organizational goals, and evaluate financial feasibility and resource allocation.
- Actively identified, drafted, and managed grants and financial incentives aimed at fostering economic development, community revitalization, and infrastructure improvements.
- Conducted meetings with external agencies, developers, business leaders, and community groups to outline and discuss services, aims, and strategic initiatives of AREDF.
- Assisted firms with fast-tracking permit processes and accessing capital by coordinating financial support from federal, state, and local agencies.
- Compiled and presented detailed reports, communications, and presentations for Board to keep members informed of ongoing and upcoming program activities

Additional Experience

Director, Small Business Development Center | Accountant, Business and Tax Analyst | Business Owner and Accountant– Cochise College, Location
Senior Financial Analyst – Sierra Vista Regional Health Care Center, Location
Instructor – University of Phoenix, AZ
Learning Center Manager – University of Phoenix, AZ

Education

Masters in Business Administration – University of Phoenix
Bachelors of Science in Business Administration/Accounting - University of Phoenix

Certifications

Cochise College Leadership Academy | American Association of Community College Leadership Institute | Greater Sierra Vista Area Chamber of Commerce Leadership Program | Certified NxLevel Instructor – Entrepreneurial training Program | Certified SBDC Counselor | Certified QuickBooks Instructor | Arizona Economic Development Course | International Economic Development Council | Real Estate Development and Reuse Course | Economic Development Marketing and Attraction Course | Economic Development Credit Analysis Course | Entrepreneurial & Small Business Development Strategies Course | Business Retention and Expansion Course

State Appointments

Board of Directors, Arizona Commerce Authority
Board, Greater Arizona Development Authority
Commission, Aerospace and Defense
Board of Governor, State Bar of Arizona
Executive Team, Arizona Mexico Commission

Affiliations

Greater Sierra Vista Area Chamber of Commerce
Advisory Committee, Aerospace Arizona
State Chapter Secretary, Association of Uncrewed Vehicle Systems International
Chair of Diversity and Inclusion Committee, Association of Uncrewed Vehicle Systems International
Past President, Arizona Association of Economic Development
Board Member, International Economic Development Council
Chair of the Diversity and Inclusion Committee, International Economic Development Council
Board Member, National Small Business Association
US Global Leadership Coalition

Community Development

Past Board of Trustees, Canyon Vista Medical Center
Past Board Member, Chiricahua Community Health Center
Citizens Advisory Commission
Participant, Arizona Town Hall

Cochise County Workforce Board
President, Good Neighbor Alliance
Secretary, Premier Alliances



ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL PACKET

MEMO TO: ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL
FROM: CHRIS VERTREES, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
DATE: AUGUST 6, 2026
SUBJECT: FUTURE MEETING DATES

The Administrative Council normally meets virtually at 9:00 a.m. on the first Thursday of February, May, August and November via MS Teams. The Executive Board normally meets at 10:00 a.m. on Fridays, two weeks following the Administrative Council meetings unless there is a holiday, or unless the Board sets an alternative date. The location of each Executive Board meeting is determined by the jurisdiction hosting the meeting and therefore varies.

Administrative Council	Executive Board
February 5, 2026	February 20, 2026 - Cochise County
May 7, 2026	May 22, 2026 – Graham County
August 6, 2026	August 27, 2026 – Greenlee County
November 5, 2026	November 20, 2025 – Santa Cruz County

Also, below please find the tentative schedule for our Executive Committee meetings in the upcoming 12 months:

Executive Committee Meetings (Virtual)
April 2, 2026 – 9:00 a.m.
June 4, 2026 – 9:00 a.m.
October 1, 2026 – 9:00 a.m.
December 3, 2026 – 9:00 a.m.

Attachments: None.

Action Requested: ☒ Information Only ☐ Action Requested Below:



ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL PACKET

MEMO TO: ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL

FROM: CHRISTOPHER VERTREES, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

DATE: AUGUST 6, 2026

SUBJECT: SANTA CRUZ COUNTY EXECUTIVE BOARD PRIVATE SECTOR REPRESENTATIVE

As you may be aware, our Executive Board must include private sector representation as a requirement of the Economic Development Administration (EDA). Per SEAGO's Bylaws, Private Sector Representatives are appointed from the nominations submitted by the Member Entity Representatives from each county area that represents a low income or minority group, or representative organization, or represent the principal economic interests in the region, such as, but not limited to business, industry, finance, utilities, education, agriculture, or labor.

Prior to our May Executive Board meeting, Perin McNelis resigned her position as our Santa Cruz County Private Sector Representative (PSR). To date, we have not received a nomination to fill the Santa Cruz County vacancy.

Ensuring that there is representation on our Board from one of the sectors noted above is important to EDA. Therefore, SEAGO is accepting nominations for the vacant Santa Cruz County Private Sector Representatives for approval at our November meeting. We are required to provide the resumes of our private sector representatives to the EDA. Nominations will need to include a resume from the nominee.

Please submit nominations via email to cdvertrees@seago.org by October 22, 2026, so that they may be considered by our Administrative Council at their November 5, 2026, meeting.



ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL PACKET

MEMO TO: ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL
THROUGH: CHRIS VERTREES, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
FROM: DINA CURTISS, FINANCE MANAGER
DATE: AUGUST 6, 2026
SUBJECT: FINANCE REPORT

Due to end of FFY 2026 closeout activity, the SEAGO Statement of Revenues and Expenditures for the quarter ending June 30, 2026, will be distributed by next Wednesday for your review.

I will be happy to answer any questions you may have regarding the Statement of Revenues and Expenditures at our meeting.

Action Requested: ☒ Information Only ☐ Action Requested Below



ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL PACKET

MEMO TO: ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL
THROUGH: CHRIS VERTREES, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
FROM: WILLIAM D. OSBORNE, AICP, COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT MANAGER
DATE: AUGUST 6, 2026
SUBJECT: COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM UPDATES

Better Cities Resilience Action Planning & Freeport McMoRan

The monthly Greenlee County Resiliency Planning Meeting of May 7, 2026 highlights included a progress update on the Greenlee County Housing Feasibility Study Update funded by FMI, that the update would likely be done in July 2026. SEAGO Community & Economic Development (C&ED) Manager Will Osborne virtually presented the findings of the Graham County Housing Assessment & Housing Strategy (2025) to the Graham County Community Partnership Panel on May 7, 2026 at their 2Q2026 Meeting.

Brownfields Assessment Grant (BAG)

As of July 21, 2026, the small amount of funding (less than \$15,000) remaining in the 1st SEAGO Brownfield Assessment Grant (BAG) effectively leaves one (1) project that has property owner concurrence with brownfield assessment activities, qualifies as having a Phase I Assessment completed, and also has a budget amount lower than but close to the remaining balance. That project is the Phase II ESA Willcox MSW Landfill, submitted by Cochise County.

The EPA pre-awarded SEAGO for the second-round Collaborative Brownfield Assessment Grant (BAG). SEAGO Executive Director Chris Vertrees has prepared the necessary scope of work and budget refinements, which will be discussed in his reports on Brownfields.

Recreation Economy for Rural Communities (RERC) - Douglas

Citizens, artists, business owners, City staff, federal support staff and other stakeholders in Douglas concluded the public outreach, brainstorming and strategic prioritization phases of the Recreation Economy for Rural Communities (RERC) process on June 23rd and 24th, 2026. Douglas City staff and members of the Steering Committee will be coordinating with federal support staff on scheduling remaining calls to finalize the Douglas RERC Action Plan.

WIFA Projects

The **Sweet Springs Community Mobile Home Park** water system improvements project

in St. David has been in construction for over two (2) months, with Labor Standards Compliance Monitoring (LSCM) – site interviews and payroll certification performed by SEAGO Community Coordinator Maria Valles. **The City of Douglas Well #18 Equipping** (CoD 2026-PW-010) project has had SEAGO support for LSCM and American Iron & Steel (AIS) Certification Monitoring since mid-April, and is expected to continue into August. SEAGO has been coordinating payroll certifications with the City of Douglas for their reporting to WIFA on the Well 18 Equipping project. The **Graham County Electrical Cooperative (GCEC)** has a **water supply storage tank placement project funded by WIFA** that will have SEAGO LSCM support when construction begins in Fall 2026.

City of Douglas Projects

SEAGO has concluded most of the initial labor standards compliance interviews for the active City of Douglas projects including the **West Douglas Utilities Expansion** (CoD 2026-PW-001) and the **Well #20 Drilling** (CoD 2026-PW-020) project, near the Cochise Community College–Douglas campus. Staff continues to process certified payrolls for these projects and coordinate with the City as needed.

CD Program Staffing – Community & Economic Development Planner Recruitment(s)

The C&ED Manager will be working with the Executive Director and Finance Manager in revisiting the Planner position to ensure alignment of duties, responsibilities and compensation with the integration of the Community Development Program and Economic Development Program. The staffing need is critical for SEAGO's successful performance of its workload both committed and in 'the pipeline.'

Attachments: None

Action Requested:

☒ Information Only

☐ Action Requested Below



ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL PACKET

MEMO TO: ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL
THROUGH: JOHN MERIDETH, IT MANAGER
DATE: August 6, 2026
SUBJECT: INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY UPDATES

The following provides a summary of current Information Technology initiatives at SEAGO:

Digital Analytics & Performance

Website Analytics

The following table outlines unique page visits and search engine interactions across SEAGO's digital properties:

	Google Interactions	seago.org	seagomobility.org	seagotam.org	southeastarizonaeconomy.com
Apr-26	96	897	56	34	6
May-26	87	794	52	20	6
Jun-26	112	1,100	43	29	11

Communication Systems

Monthly call volume summary:

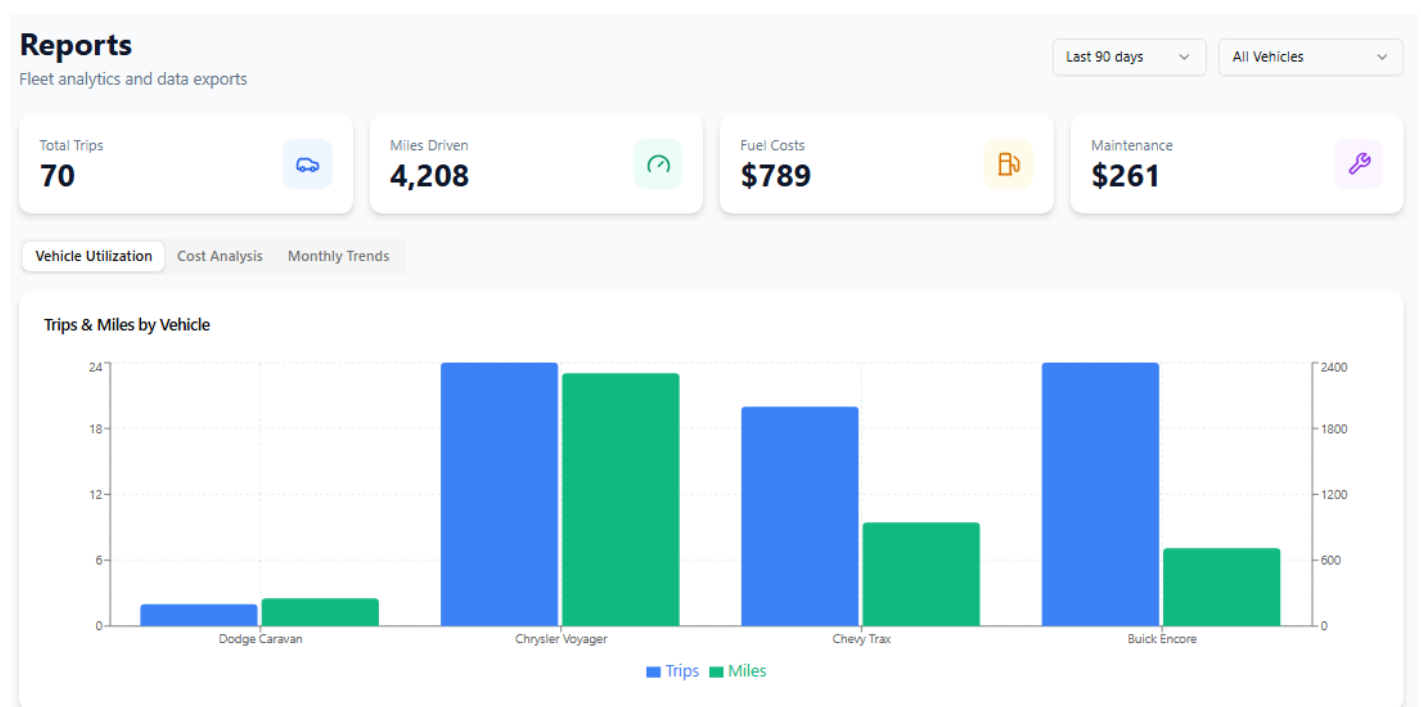
	Inbound	Outbound	Total
Apr-26	948	684	1632
May-26	894	498	1392
Jun-26	981	545	1526

Application Development Pipeline & Strategic Updates

The following pages outline the progress, technical capabilities, and deployment schedules for SEAGO's current software development initiatives.

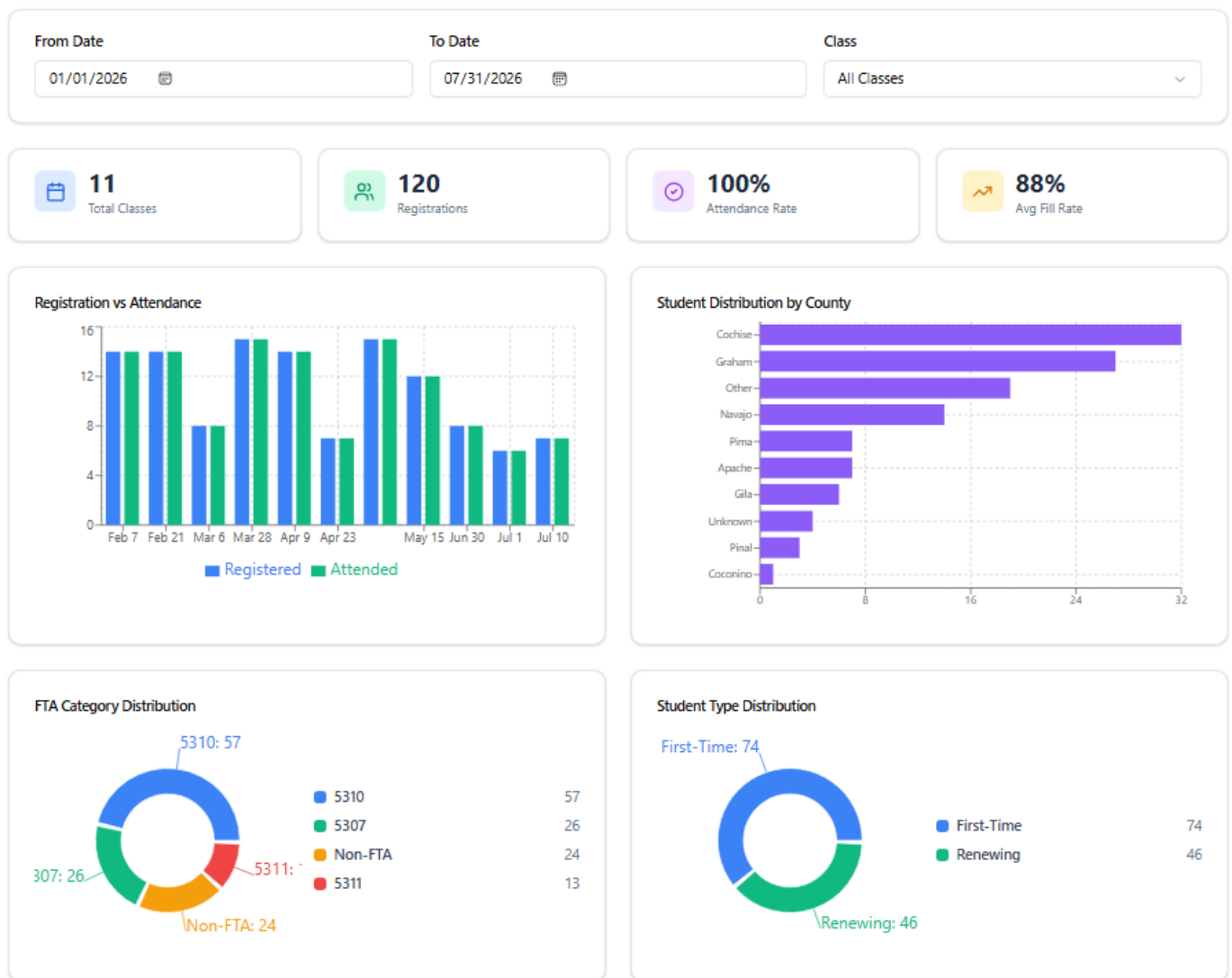
Active & Upcoming Deployments and Updates

- **SEAGO FleetFlow (Fleet Management):**
 - **Status:** Launched January 1, 2026.
 - **Functionality:** A full-cycle mobile solution for the checkout and return of SEAGO fleet vehicles.
 - **Data Capture:** Automates the recording of odometer readings, fuel purchases, and maintenance logs.
 - **Compliance & Oversight:** Digitizes pre- and post-trip inspections to eliminate paper waste. The system provides real-time reporting for accidents and triggers automated notifications for the Fleet Manager regarding PM (Preventative Maintenance) schedules, registration renewals, and insurance expirations.
 - **Analytics:** Enables management to analyze vehicle utilization rates and total cost of ownership (TCO).

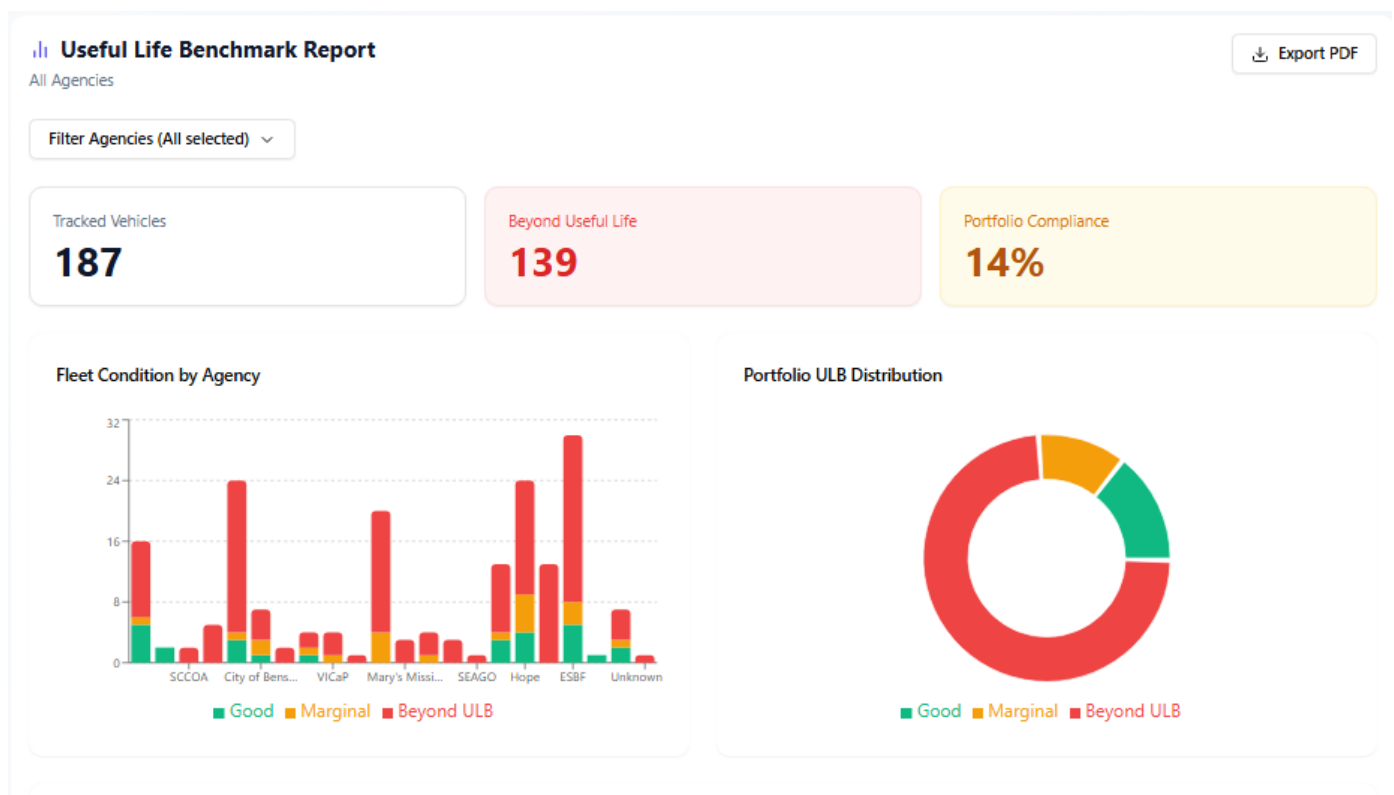


- **PASS 8.0 Student Registration:**

- **Status:** Launched March 1, 2026.
- **Functionality:** A student-facing portal for class registration with integrated waitlist logic.
- **Key Features:** Students can track attendance history and submit course feedback directly through the interface.
- **Scope:** Supporting 14 statewide classes for the 2026 calendar year.

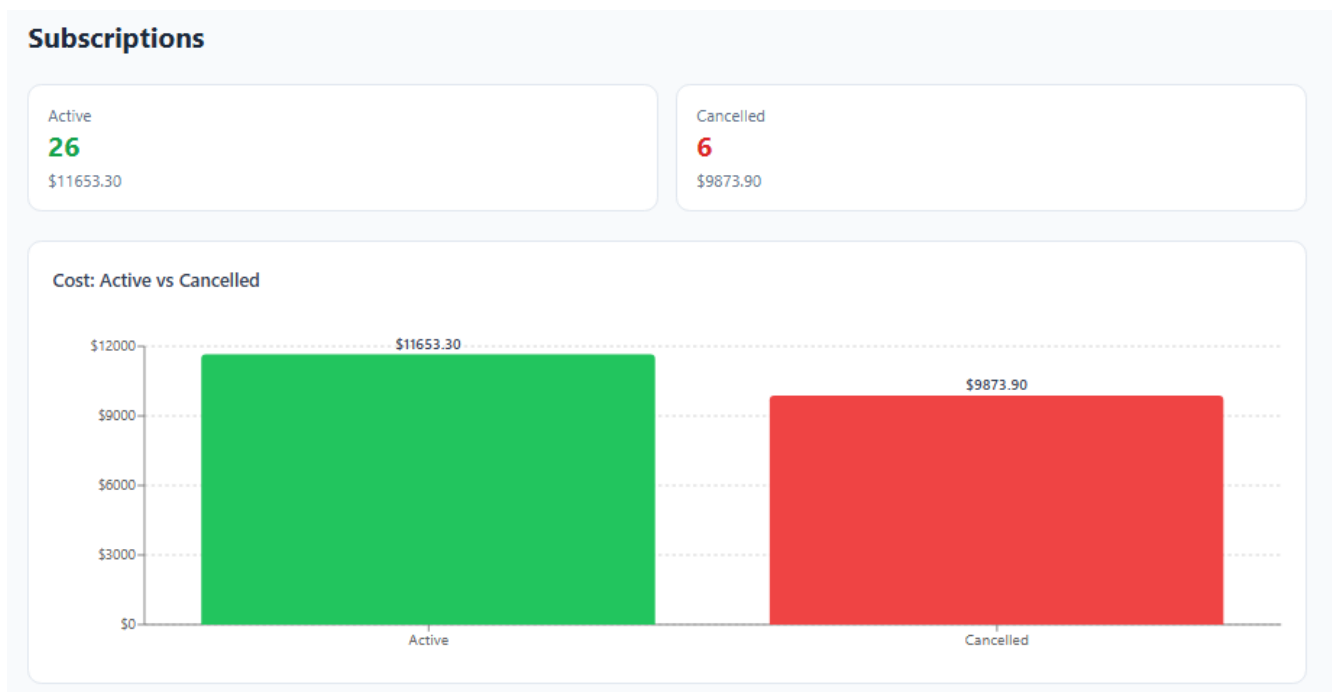
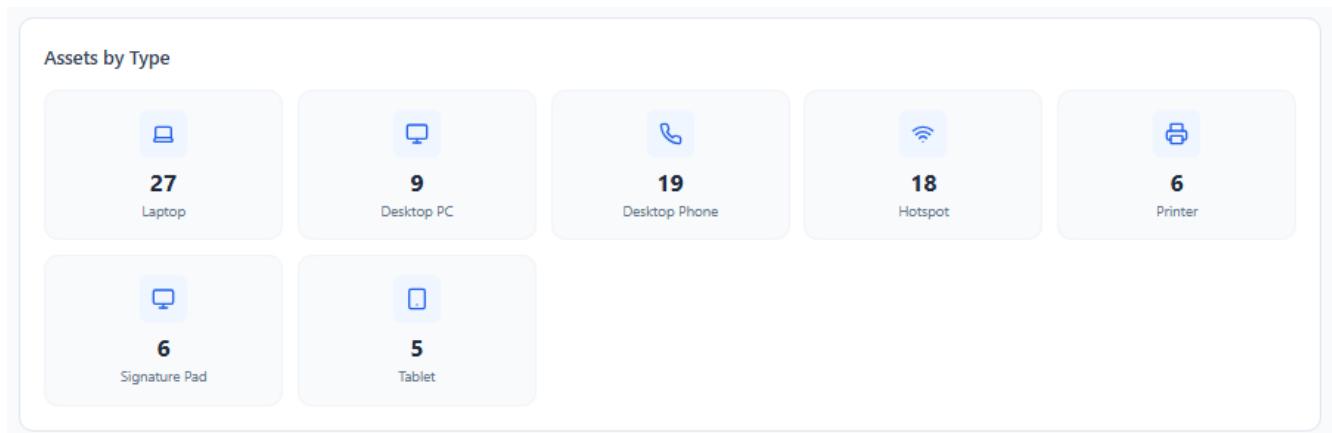


- **TAM (Transit Asset Management) System aka SEAGO Transit Connect:**
 - **Status:** Ongoing Development (Replacement of 2017 legacy system).
 - **Core Capabilities:** Designed for both public and non-public transit operators to monitor vehicle health and regulatory compliance.
 - **Data Architecture:** Features a comprehensive analytics dashboard tracking **ADOT Useful Life Benchmarks (ULB)** and **State of Good Repair (SGR)**.
 - **Operational Portals:** Includes specialized Driver and Dispatch Portals to capture real-time maintenance, utilization, communications, and operational compliance data.



- **IT Asset Management System:**

- **Status:** Live on March 1, 2026.
- **Objective:** Replace current system with a mobile and user friendly system that will allow IT to track and manage assets and warranty expirations as well as software subscriptions.



- **SEAGO GIS (www.seago-gis.org):**
 - **Status:** Under development.
 - **Objective:** Provide one place to locate all SEAGO GIS products including SEAGO Region Traffic Data, Community/Economic Development Projects, and SEAGO STBG/TIP Tracker.



Available Maps and Apps



Community and Economic Development Projects Status (CDBG, EDA, USDA-RD, WIFA, etc.)

🕒 Last Updated: Jul 23, 2026



SRTD
SEAGO Region Traffic Data

🕒 Last Updated: Jun 26, 2026



SEAGO TIP
SEAGO STBG Ledger and TIP

- **AAA Mobile App Revamp:**
 - **Status:** In Development (Replacement of 2017 legacy system).
 - **Timeline:** Targeted rollout in 2027.
 - **Objective:** To modernize the Area Agency on Aging's digital interface.
- **SCTP Driver Mobile App:**
 - **Status:** In development.
 - **Objective:** Custom app for Santa Cruz Training Programs to track daily ridership.
 - **Impact:** Will help with required monthly reporting and tracking.

Action Requested:

X Information Only

Action Requested Below



ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL PACKET

MEMO TO: ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL
FROM: CELESTE VASQUEZ, AREA AGENCY ON AGING DIRECTOR
DATE: AUGUST 6, 2026
SUBJECT: AREA AGENCY ON AGING STATE FISCAL YEAR 2026-2027
SUBCONTRACTS

Background:

SEAGO Area Agency on Aging completed the State Fiscal Year 2026-2027 subcontracts by June 30, 2026. Attached is a summary of funds awarded to contractors and providers. We will continue to closely monitor fund usage and, if necessary, reallocate funds to another service or provider to ensure the full state award is utilized. If additional funds become available, we will assess regional needs and request funds as appropriate.

Attachments: SEAGO AAA State Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Subcontracts

Action Requested: ☒ Information Only ☐ Action Requested Below:

SEAGO AAA Fiscal Year 2026-2027 Subcontracts

Case Management			
Available Funding Graham and Greenlee:			\$ 46,700
Provider	Service	Service Area	Contract Amount
Cochise County			
SEAGO-Area Agency on Aging	Case Management		\$ 147,534
Graham/Greenlee County			
Southeastern Arizona Community Unique Services	Case Management		\$ 46,700
Santa Cruz County			
SEAGO-Area Agency on Aging	Case Management		\$ 73,766
Home Care Cluster			
Available Funding By County:			
Cochise:			\$ 269,145
Graham:			\$ 160,305
Greenlee:			\$ 44,900
Santa Cruz:			\$ 211,620
Provider	Service	Service Area	Contract Amount
Cochise County			
Accent Care	Attendant Care	Cochise County - All	\$ 32,500
	Attendant Care-SSBG		\$ 146,035
	In-home Respite		\$ 40,020
Lutheran Social Services	Attendant Care	Cochise County - All	\$ 32,500
	Attendant Care-SSBG		\$ 10,000
	In-home Respite		\$ 8,090
Graham County			
Accent Care	Attendant Care	Graham County - All	\$ 12,000
	In-home Respite		\$ 3,950
Southeastern Arizona Community Unique Services	Attendant Care	Graham County - All	\$ 136,000
	In-home Respite		\$ 8,355
	Home Repair	Graham/Greenlee	\$ -
	Adaptive Aids	Graham/Greenlee	\$ -
Greenlee County			
Greenlee County Health Department	Attendant Care	Greenlee County - All	\$ 43,000
	In-home Respite		\$ 1,900

Home Care Cluster (continued)			
Provider	Service	Service Area	Contract Amount
Santa Cruz County			
Accent Care	Attendant Care	Santa Cruz County - All	\$ 20,400
	Attendant Care-SSBG		\$ 20,500
	In-home Respite		\$ 7,500
Consumer Direct	Attendant Care	Santa Cruz County - All	\$ 48,000
	Attendant Care-SSBG		\$ 48,600
	In-home Respite		\$ 1,070
Lutheran Social Services	Attendant Care	Santa Cruz County - All	\$ 47,200
	Attendant Care-SSBG		\$ 10,000
	In-home Respite		\$ 8,350
Meals Programs			
Available Funding By County:			
Cochise:			\$ 450,750
Graham:			\$ 218,605
Greenlee:			\$ 155,270
Santa Cruz:			\$ 348,875
Provider	Service	Service Area	Contract Amount
Cochise County			
City of Tombstone	Congregate Meals	Tombstone	\$ 85,000
Douglas ARC	Congregate Meals	Douglas	\$ 13,000
	Home Delivered Meals	SE Cochise County	\$ 195,000
Mom's Meals	Home Delivered Meals	Rural Cochise County	\$ 157,750
Graham County			
Mom's Meals	Home Delivered Meals	Rural Graham County	\$ 39,438
Southeastern Arizona Community Unique Services	Congregate Meals	Safford	\$ 52,500
	Home Delivered Meals	Graham	\$ 126,667
Greenlee County			
Mom's Meals	Home Delivered Meals	Rural Greenlee County	\$ 39,437
Southeastern Arizona Community Unique Services	Congregate Meals	Clifton and Duncan	\$ 52,500
	Home Delivered Meals	Greenlee	\$ 63,333
Santa Cruz County			
Mom's Meals	Home Delivered Meals	Rural Santa Cruz County	\$ 78,875
Santa Cruz Council on Aging	Congregate Meals	Nogales	\$ 200,000
Senior Citizens of Patagonia	Congregate Meals	Patagonia	\$ 70,000

Transportation			
		Cochise: \$	100,000
		Graham: \$	10,000
		Greenlee: \$	15,000
		Santa Cruz: \$	2,000
Provider	Service	Service Area	Contract Amount
Cochise County			
City of Benson	Transportation	Benson Area	\$ 20,000
City of Bisbee	Transportation	Bisbee Area	\$ 20,000
City of Douglas	Transportation	Douglas - Cochise Cnty	\$ 20,000
City of Willcox	Transportation	Willcox Area	\$ 20,000
Volunteer Interfaith Caregiver Program (VICAP)	Transportation	Cochise County -All	\$ 20,000
Graham County			
Easter Seals Blake Foundation	Transportation	Graham County	\$ 10,000
Greenlee County			
Easter Seals Blake Foundation	Transportation	Greenlee - Clifton	\$ 6,000
		Greenlee - Duncan	\$ 9,000
		Santa Cruz County	
Valley Assistance Services-Tentative	Transportation	Santa Cruz County	\$ 2,000.00
Unobligated Funds			
Available Funding All Counties:			\$ 90,707
Provider	Service	Service Area	Contract Amount
TBD	CNG-HDM	All Counties	\$ 90,707
Grand Total - All			\$ 2,345,177

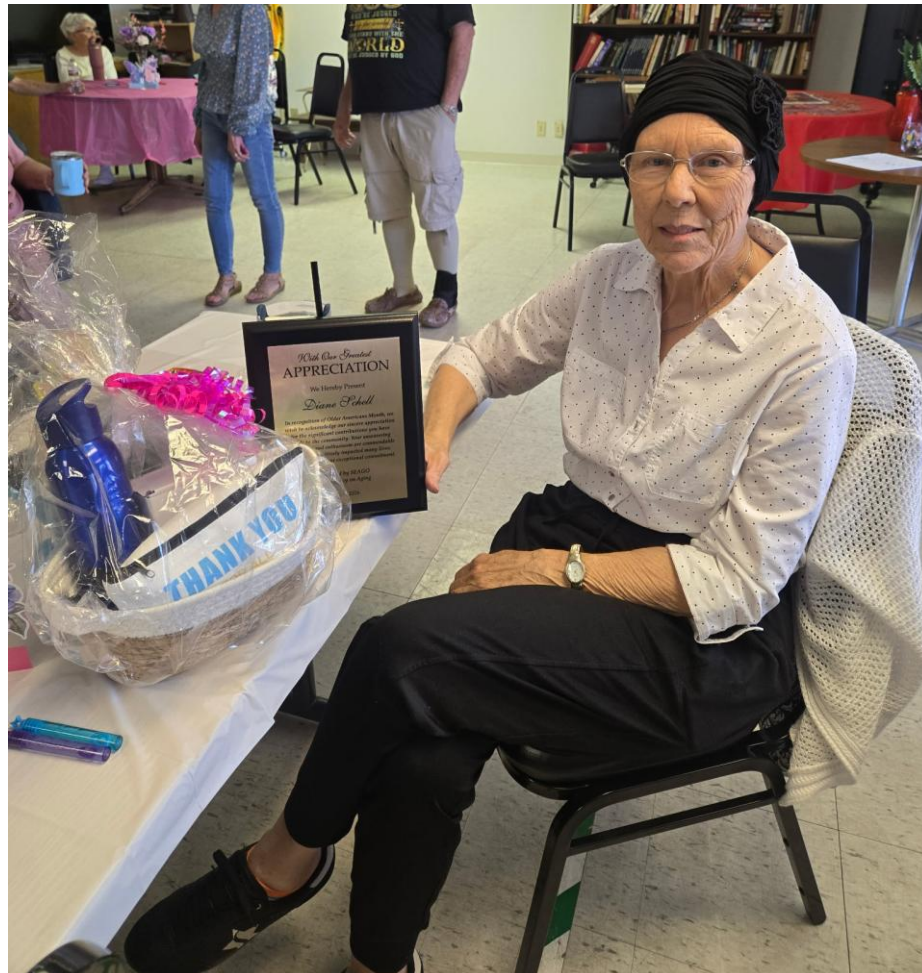


ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL PACKET

MEMO TO: ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL
FROM: CELESTE VASQUEZ, AREA AGENCY ON AGING DIRECTOR
DATE: AUGUST 6, 2026
SUBJECT: AREA AGENCY ON AGING PROGRAMS & AREA PLAN UPDATE

Administration:

During the final quarter of State Fiscal Year 2025–2026, the Area Agency on Aging team carried out several outreach and community education activities. In May, staff recognized Older Americans Month through events held across each county in the region. These activities provided an opportunity to honor older adults, promote well-being, independence, and aging with dignity, and share information about Area Agency on Aging services available to older adults and their families.



In June, the agency continued its outreach efforts with a focus on elder abuse awareness and prevention. SEAGO Area Agency on Aging recognized World Elder Abuse Awareness Day (WEAAD) through a month-long education campaign that included presentations and collaboration with local law enforcement agencies across all four counties. As part of this year's awareness theme, red flags were distributed to attendees as a visual reminder of the warning signs associated with abuse, exploitation, and scams.



The agency was also pleased to welcome Attorney General Kris Mayes back to Duncan, Arizona, where she hosted an Elder Scams Town Hall for community members.



Attorney General Kris Mayes 

Jun 3 · 

I was honored to join SouthEastern Arizona Elder Abuse Task Force and empower seniors in the Duncan area to protect themselves from scams. On World [#ElderAbuseAwarenessDay](#) and every day, protecting Arizona seniors from abuse and exploitation is one of my top priorities.



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To conclude the month's outreach activities, staff participated in the Bisbee Pride Event by hosting an information and education table. The team shared community education materials and registered one community member for services. With strong attendance from residents of Cochise and surrounding counties, the event provided a valuable opportunity to increase awareness of Area Agency on Aging programs and resources.

The Arizona Department of Economic Security, Division of Aging and Adult Services, organized a partnership meeting with Jakenna Lebsock, Deputy Assistant Director of the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System. The Area Agencies on Aging welcomed the opportunity to learn more about how they may support clients and the aging population in their communities with Medicaid and Arizona Long Term Care System applications. While case managers currently assist clients with Arizona Long Term Care System applications when needed, they are not certified assessors. Formal training would strengthen staff understanding of the process and improve their ability to support clients. A follow-up meeting with the Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System is scheduled for September, with the goal of advancing a close and collaborative partnership.

Case Management and Family Caregiver Support Program:

FCSP/CMG coordinated AAA's vendor participation at the June 2026 Bisbee Pride event, increasing awareness of AAA programs, services, and resources among hundreds of attendees from Cochise County and surrounding areas. The event strengthened community partnerships and expanded outreach. AAA's parade float won first place in the float contest and was featured on several media platforms, further increasing visibility of AAA services across the region.

FCSP/CMG has developed key partnerships with Hummingbird Senior Facility and Life Care Center to increase visibility of AAA services. Plans are underway with Hummingbird to open an adult day care program early next year, and Life Care Center will host a monthly Memory Café in conjunction with its family council meetings.

FCSP/CMG continued participating in community meetings in Benson and Douglas, as well as networking events throughout Cochise County, to strengthen relationships and increase awareness of available resources. FCSP also presented on caregiver burnout during the Step Up Douglas Learning Series and received positive attendee feedback. Through ongoing outreach and engagement, FCSP continues to support community partners, build relationships, and promote services for caregivers and families.

Health Promotion and Disease Prevention Program:

The Health Promotion and Disease Prevention Coordinator has met with several current partners and continues to conduct outreach with additional Area Agency on Aging partners. The program currently has 10 volunteers, including two Tai Chi volunteers and eight A Matter of Balance volunteers. Plans are underway for Sierra Vista volunteers to begin offering classes in the fall.

The Coordinator completed an A Matter of Balance class at the Nogales Senior Center in June, with an additional class scheduled to begin in September. Two Tai Chi for Arthritis

classes are currently in progress, and two additional classes are planned following completion of the current sessions. Participation in the Tai Chi classes has continued to increase.

Information & Referral/ Central Intake:

Top 3 Ways I&R Received



Phone
72.4%

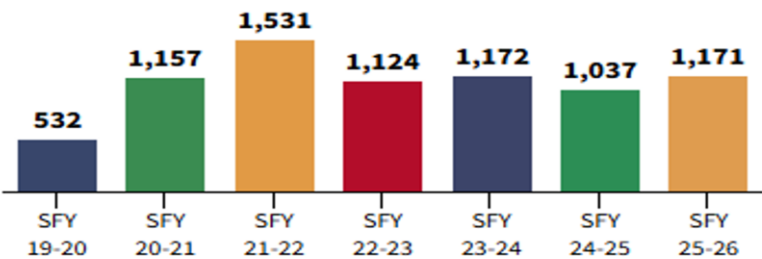


Email
21.0%



In-Person
2.1%

I&R Calls Per SFY



Caller		
	Total	Percent
Agency/ Professional	293	25.5
Caregiver	3	0.3
Community gatekeeper	4	0.3
Family member	217	18.9
Friend/neighbor	50	4.4
Other	48	4.2
Person 60 or over	500	43.6
Person under 60	32	2.8
Unknown	0	0.0

Long-Term Care Ombudsman:

The Long-Term Care Ombudsman and volunteer team continue to maintain engagement with skilled nursing and assisted living facilities throughout Region VI.

The Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program recently participated in the Arizona Department of Economic Security's World Elder Abuse Awareness Day event in Phoenix. Program staff also plan to attend the USAging conference in July to strengthen knowledge, enhance skills, and support continued community outreach and education efforts.

The Southeastern Arizona Elder Abuse Taskforce continued its mission to raise awareness and provide education during World Elder Abuse Awareness Month in June by hosting four community events. The Nogales event included approximately 100 attendees and vendors; Safford welcomed approximately 30 participants; Duncan drew approximately 50 attendees, featured Attorney General Kris Mayes, and received media coverage; and Sierra Vista hosted approximately 50 attendees and 27 vendors, also receiving media coverage. Each event helped strengthen community awareness, education, and connection around elder abuse prevention.

State Health Insurance Program and Senior Medicare Patrol:

The State Health Insurance Assistance Program and Senior Medicare Patrol continued outreach efforts across Region VI, resulting in multiple beneficiary referrals. Staff attended events in all four counties: Graham, Greenlee, Santa Cruz, and Cochise. A total of 12 events were held in May and June. In April, staff participated in meetings, emails, and phone calls to develop new partnerships and coordinate with existing partners in preparation for these outreach activities.

State Health Insurance Assistance Program counselors provide information about coverage options and may review annual dental allowances available under individual plans. These extra benefits may change in the coming year, with the possibility of reduced coverage. The State Health Insurance Assistance Program and Senior Medicare Patrol work closely with community medical health centers to connect beneficiaries with nearby services and sliding-scale programs that may help reduce dental costs.

Medicare Savings Program and Extra Help applications are available for individuals who meet the recommended income guidelines. The State Health Insurance Assistance Program and Senior Medicare Patrol have identified concerns regarding non-permanent residents losing Medicaid benefits due to residency status. To support individuals without Medicaid coverage, the program has partnered with Canyonlands, Mariposa, Chiricahua, and Gila Medical Centers, which offer sliding-scale programs to assist with copayments. The program coordinator refers eligible non-permanent residents to their designated medical center for sliding-scale enrollment information when requested.



ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL PACKET

MEMO TO: ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL
THROUGH: CHRIS VERTREES, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
DATE: AUGUST 6, 2026
SUBJECT: COMPREHENSIVE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY (CEDS)

A Comprehensive Economic Development Strategy is a collaborative plan that guides economic growth, job creation, and community prosperity by identifying priorities, coordinating resources, and establishing a clear vision for the future. **One of the most important purposes of the CEDS is to position communities for funding opportunities, as the CEDS is often required for certain federal economic development grants and has significant value in the pursuit of other Federal grant opportunities.**

The 2026-2030 CEDS will be delivered to the EDA by August 15, 2026. We kicked off public outreach efforts in January with a widely distributed SWOT survey to identify strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats for each County. In addition, we hosted in-person public outreach meetings in Cochise, Graham, Greenlee and Santa Cruz Counties in January to collect additional data. The results of these public meetings and SWOT surveys were presented in each County last week. Information was collected involving projects important to each County and their communities that needed to be included in the CEDS

Here is the link to the CEDS: <https://www.keepandshare.com/doc12/view.php?id=260470&da=y>

SEAGO will continue to accept comments through the COB on August 7, 2026. The following link and QR code will take you to our public comment page:

Comment Form: <https://seago-ceds-comments.base44.app/>



Action Requested: Information Only



ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL PACKET

MEMO TO: ADMINISTRATIVE COUNCIL
THROUGH: CHRIS VERTREES, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
DATE: AUGUST 6, 2026
SUBJECT: TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM UPDATES

RTAC Priority Project List

The last several years, the Rural Transportation Advisory Council (RTAC) has requested that Greater Arizona COGs and MPOs develop a list of regional priorities consisting of the top projects to be put forward by all of the COGs/MPOs in Greater Arizona to the State Legislature for funding. The SEAGO Region was successful during the FY26 budget cycle. We secured \$6.2 million in projects. Last year we developed a FY26 Priority Project List that included \$42,698,599 in projects. Unfortunately, due to significant budget issues the State Legislature did not fund any projects from the RTAC list.

RTAC has requested that each Greater Arizona COG/MPO once again develop a list of Regional Transportation Priority Projects to be submitted to the State Legislature for funding for the FY28 budget cycle. At our July TAC meeting, the TAC voted to recycle the FY26 Project List. Attached is our FY28 list of projects for your records.

FY26 Arizona Transportation Policy Summit

The 2026 Arizona Transportation Policy Summit will be hosted by MetroPlan and NACOG. The Summit will be held in Flagstaff from October 14th through the 16th at the High-Country Conference Center. To date 16 state legislatures have committed to attending the summit. Here is the link to register for the Summit: <https://www.azrts.org/>

I will be glad to answer any questions you may have at our meeting.

Attachments: SEAGO FY28 RTAC Priority Project List.

Action Requested: ☒ Information Only ☐ Action Requested Below



FY2028 RTAC PRIORITY TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS FOR THE SEAGO REGION

Project Sponsor	Project Name	Project Cost	Local Contribution	Recommended Funding
San Carlos Apache Tribe	Peridot Siding Road Pavement Overlay Project	\$3,143,000	\$179,151	\$2,963,849
Santa Cruz County	West Frontage Road at Camino Ramanote Roundabout	\$1,170,000	\$66,690	\$1,103,310
City of Douglas	Douglas Downtown Revitalization Streetscape Project	\$7,549,804	\$472,309	\$7,077,495
Graham County	Reay Lane Improvements	\$3,955,058	\$225,438	\$3,729,620
Cochise County	Davis Rd- MP 5 & 13 Improvements	\$6,000,000	\$383,000	\$5,617,000
Town of Duncan	High Street Improvements	\$1,962,611	\$111,869	\$1,850,742
Cochis County	Davis Rd – Central Hwy to US-191	\$7,555,013	\$471,636	\$7,083,377
Graham County	8th Street Improvement Project	\$2,535,000	\$144,495	\$2,390,505
City of Nogales	Western Avenue- Target Range Road Paving Project	\$6,927,573	\$394,872	\$6,532,701
City of Douglas	SR 80 - Washington Turn Lane Improvements	\$1,500,000	\$250,000	\$1,250,000
Cochise County	Moson Road - Transfer to SVMPO	\$3,100,000	\$0	\$3,100,000
			Total Cost	\$42,698,599
FY 27 Projects				
FY 26 Projects				