



# Interagency Technical Working Group on Tribal Transportation Issues

Item: **2**

To be Announced

Action: **Approve**

## July 24, 2019, Meeting Minutes

Co-Chair Erica Pinto (Jamul Indian Village of California) called the meeting of the Interagency Technical Working Group on Tribal Transportation (Working Group) to order at 10:11 a.m.

### 1. Welcome and Introductions

Co-Chair Pinto welcomed the members of the Working Group and Ray Teran (Viejas Band of Kumeyaay Nation) led the blessing.

Co-Chair Pinto facilitated self-introductions.

Tribal Nations represented were: Barona Band of Mission Indians; Campo Kumeyaay Nation, Jamul Indian Village of California; La Jolla Band of Luiseño Indians; La Posta Band of the Kumeyaay Nation; Pala Band of Mission Indians; San Pasqual Band of Diegueño Indians; and Viejas Band of Kumeyaay Nation.

Additional Tribal Nations present: Morongo Band of Mission Indians.

### 2. Approval of Meeting Minutes (Approve)

Action: Upon a motion by Ray Teran (Viejas Tribal Government) and a second by Vice Chairman Mike Hunter (Jamul Indian Village of California), the Interagency Technical Working Group on Tribal Transportation approved the minutes from its April 17, 2019, meeting. Yes: Co-Chair Pinto, Andrew Orosco (San Pasqual Band of Diegueño Indians), Chairman Edwin "Thorpe" Romero (Barona Band of Mission Indians), Mike Connolly Miskwish (Campo Kumeyaay Nation), John Beresford (La Jolla Band of Luiseño Indians), Councilmember Eric LaChappa (La Posta Band of the Kumeyaay Nation), Chairman Robert Smith (Pala Band of Mission Indians), and Mr. Teran. No: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Ewiiapaayp Band of the Kumeyaay Nation, Iipay Nation of Santa Ysabel, Inaja-Cosmit Reservation, Los Coyotes Band of Cahuilla/Cupeño Indians, Manzanita Band of the Kumeyaay Nation, Mesa Grande Band of Mission Indians, Pauma Band of Luiseño Indians, Rincon Band of Luiseño Indians, and Sycuan Band of the Kumeyaay Nation.

### 3. Public Comments/Communication/Member Comments

There were no public comments, communications, or member comments.

### 4. Co-Chairs' Reports (Information)

Co-Chair Pinto updated the Working Group on the June 28, 2019 Tribal Symposium joint meeting with the Borders Committee. Co-Chair Pinto shared that the meeting was overall successful with good engagement on from both the tribal leaders and the Borders Committee members.

Chairman Romero commented that they should break down into smaller meetings to gather information to identify what issues impact tribal lands and move towards conversations that address these issues.

Mr. Connolly Miskwish added that it was beneficial to touch on topics other than transportation such as energy, economics, and tribal cultural resources. Mr. Connolly Miskwish also stated that the overview of Assembly Bill 52 (AB 52) (Gatto, 2014) gave politicians in the western part of the county the breadth of issues in the tribal community and the capability tribes have of addressing these issues. Mr. Teran agreed with Mr. Connolly Miskwish that the elected officials now understand the importance of AB 52.

Adam Geisler (La Jolla) commented that the symposium provided a platform to have a high-level conversation, but that more conversations about specific tribal issues need to be had. For example, tribal economies. Mr. Geisler questioned what SANDAG's bold new plan will mean for transportation to and from tribal reservations.

Acting Co-Chair Elisa Arias, Principal Regional Planner, informed the Working Group that the agency announced institutional changes to better align the agency with its mission and goals. Ms. Arias shared that, in the future, there will be three Deputy Chief Directors, and the current interim director of Land Use and Transportation Planning is Coleen Clementson.

Mr. Teran commented that SANDAG has spent a lot of time with the tribes to get the Working Group started and it is important to appoint a new co-chair soon. Mr. Geisler also shared that Charles "Muggs" Stoll invested a lot of time into the Working Group and asked the group if there is a way they can recognize him for his service.

## **Reports**

### **5. San Diego Forward: The 2020 Federal Regional Transportation Plan Proposed Draft Transportation Network (Discussion)**

In February 2019, the SANDAG Board of Directors approved an action plan that will extend the development of the Regional Plan until late 2021. To preserve transportation funding, SANDAG is preparing San Diego Forward: The 2020 Federal Regional Transportation Plan to meet federal requirements for adoption in the spring of 2020. Rachel Kennedy, Senior Regional Planner, presented the draft transportation network for discussion.

Mr. Connolly Miskwish asked for clarification on the driver of the extension of the Regional Plan timeline. Ms. Kennedy responded that one of the large drivers was to meet state greenhouse gas reduction requirements. Mr. Connolly Miskwish followed up and asked whether the new plan would have projects focused in urban areas and would this focus mean that rural projects could be pulled from the 2021 Regional Plan.

Mr. Geisler questioned whether the Intra-regional Tribal Transportation Strategy (ITTS) would be woven into the 2021 Regional Plan whether tribes would be consulted for the 2020 Federal Regional Transportation Plan update and the 2021 Regional Plan. Mr. Geisler also expressed concern about emissions as a driver stating that it is difficult for tribes to exist without emissions and he is concerned that tribal projects will be pulled from the 2021 Regional Plan because of emissions.

Chairman Romero commented that while the main corridors are always SANDAG's priorities, tribes sat at the table trying to have tribal projects put on the table, particularly projects related to safety, but with emissions driving the 2021 Regional Plan, it feels as though the tribes are taking a step back.

Mr. Geisler inquired if it was possible to work with the state to make exemptions for greenhouse gas requirements for projects within tribal boundaries if it will impact whether they are a part of the 2021 Regional Plan. Chairman Romero foresees many challenges moving forward with both the 2020 Federal Regional Transportation Plan Update and the 2021 Regional Plan. Chairman Romero commented that the tribes do not want to feel that all the work they've done so far is not going to be used as it will decrease tribal involvement in the future.

## **6. San Diego Forward: The 2021 Regional Plan and the 5 Big Moves Framework (Discussion/Possible Action)**

Ms. Arias presented an overview of the 5 Big Moves, which are strategies to identify transportation solutions for critical connections throughout the region as part of the 2021 Regional Plan development.

Mr. Geisler commented that the plan seems like urban versus rural issues and that the presentation did not seem to incorporate tribal economic data even though they are major players. Mr. Geisler also stated that if the Vision Team wants to understand tribal issues, they need to drive to La Jolla, go to the tribes, and hold their 'war room' meeting there to understand the difference. Additionally, Mr. Geisler suggested that the SANDAG Executive Director, Hasan Ikhata, be present at one of the future tribal meetings so that he can hear how the regional vision does not fit the tribes. Leonard Gilmore (Bureau of Indian Affairs) agrees with Mr. Geisler but believes that the tribes can turn this into an opportunity for further involvement and collaboration.

## **7. Workshop: Interregional Tribal Transportation Strategy (Discussion/Possible Action)**

The Intraregional Tribal Transportation Strategy (ITTS) set out goals, an inventory of projects identified by the tribes in the region, and a set of strategic actions to pursue. In light of the development of the 2021 Regional Vision and the 5 Big Moves, Jane Clough, Senior Regional Planner, and Mr. Connolly Miskwish facilitated a workshop with the Working Group to revisit the projects in the ITTS and determined a possible set of priority projects that can be collaboratively pursued.

The tribes discussed the various projects that were prioritized in the ITTS sub-list and narrowed it down to three projects for the northern corridor and three projects for the southern corridor.

Councilmember LaChappa asked if the tribes should choose projects that cost less and could be more easily funded. Ann Fox (Caltrans) responded that if there are larger projects, the tribes can break the project up into phases that can be funded more easily. Ms. Fox also informed the working group that the emphasis on Senate Bill 1 (Beall, 2017) dollars is for roadway rehabilitation and improving current investments.

The Working Group reviewed the shortlist of projects identified in a previous workshop in 2018 to reevaluate. After going through the list and identifying projects in progress, completed, or no longer relevant, the tribes identified the following projects for the northern and southern corridors:

- ID 69 – Roundabout/Traffic Calming at Sengme Oaks Road/State Route 76 (SR 76) (La Jolla, Northern)
- ID 108 – Straighten Curves at SR 76 from Rice Canyon Road to Pala Reservation (Pala, Northern)
- ID 62-B – Shoulder Widening at Valley Center Road from Cole Grade Road to Lake Wohlford Road (San Pasqual, Northern)
- ID 5 – Signage and Lighting at Church Road/ State Route 80 (Campo, Southern)
- ID 25 – Interchange Improvements at Interstate 8/West Willows Road Interchange (Viejas, Southern)
- ID 90 – Add Bike Lane and Sidewalks at Steele Canyon Road from State Route 94 to Willow Glen Drive (Jamul, Southern)

## **8. Upcoming Meetings**

The Working Group discussed the timing of the next regular meeting and determined that in light of the issues raised regarding the inclusion of tribal concerns in the 2021 Regional Plan that a workshop should be held in August, SANDAG staff will follow up. Jamul, San Pasqual, and Viejas offered to host.

## **9. Adjournment**

Co-Chair Pinto (Jamul) adjourned the meeting at 1:24 p.m.

## Confirmed Attendance at SANDAG Interagency Technical Working Group on Tribal Transportation Meeting

July, 24, 2019

Jurisdiction	Name	Attended	Comments
Jamul Indian Village of California	Erica Pinto – Co-Chair	Yes	
	Michael A. Hunter, Alternate	Yes	
San Pasqual Band of Diegueño Indians	Andrew Orosco, Jr – Vice-Chair	Yes	
	Steven Cope	No	
Barona Band of Mission Indians	Edwin “Thrope” Romero	Yes	
	Sheilla Alvarez, Alternate	Yes	
Campo Kumeyaay Nation	Harry Cuero, Jr.	No	
	Marcus Cuero, Alternate	No	
	Mike Connolly Miskwish	Yes	
Ewiiapaayp Band of the Kumeyaay Nation	William Micklin	No	
	Robert Pinto, Sr., Alternate	No	
Iipay Nation of Santa Ysabel	Virgil Perez	No	
Inaja-Cosmit Reservation	Rebecca M. Osuna	No	
	Leia Arviso, Alternate	No	
La Jolla Band of Luiseño Indians	Fred Nelson, Jr.	Yes	
	George Wilkins, Alternate	No	
	John Beresford, Alternate	Yes	
La Posta Band of the Kumeyaay Nation	Eric LaChappa	Yes	
	Javaughn Miller, Alternate	No	
Los Coyotes Band of Cahuilla/Cupeño Indians	Ray Chapparosa	No	
	Alvina Fletcher, Alternate	No	
Manzanita Band of the Kumeyaay Nation	Angela Elliot Santos	No	
	Johnny Eaglespirit, Alternate	No	
	Lisa Haws, Alternate	No	
Mesa Grande Band of Mission Indians	Mike Linton	No	
	Jesse Morales	No	
Pala Band of Mission Indians	Robert Smith	Yes	
	Anthony Ravago, Sr.	No	
	Shasta Gaughen, Alternate	No	
Pauma Band of Luiseño Indians	Chris Nejo, Alternate	Yes	
	Temet Aguilar	No	
	Venessa Brown	No	

Jurisdiction	Name	Attended	Comments
Rincon Band of Luiseño Indians	Bo Mazzetti	No	
	Alfonso Kolb, Sr.	No	
	Frank Mazzetti, III, Alternate	No	
Sycuan Band of the Kumeyaay Nation	Cody Martinez	No	
	Sid Morris	No	
	Ania Rzepko	No	
Viejas Band of Kumeyaay Nation	John Christman	No	
	Victor Woods	No	
	Samuel Brown, Alternate	No	
	Darwin Tewanger, Alternate	No	
	Ray Teran, Alternate	Yes	
<b>Advisory Members</b>			
Bureau of Indian Affairs, Southern California (BIA)	Steve Wilkie	No	
	Leonard Gilmore	Yes	
	Scarlett Carmona	No	
Caltrans, District 11	Chi Vargas	Yes	
	Frances Dea-Sanchez	No	
	Ann Fox	Yes	
	Vanessa De La Rosa	Yes	
County of San Diego	Eric Lardy	No	
	Richard Chin	No	
Metropolitan Transit System	Denis Desmond	No	
	Sharon Cooney	No	
North County Transit District	Chris Duddy	No	
<b>Other Attendees</b>			
Shane Helms, Morongo Band of Mission Indians			
Adam Geisler, La Jolla Band of Luiseño Indians			
<b>SANDAG Staff</b>			
Elisa Arias			
Jane Clough			
Rachel Kennedy			
Stephanie Ellsworth			
Tracy Ferchaw			