



Interagency Technical Working Group on Tribal Transportation Issues

Item: **1**

September 3, 2020

Action: **Information**

June 24, 2020, Meeting Minutes

Co-Chair Erica Pinto (Jamul) called the meeting of the Interagency Technical Working Group on Tribal Transportation Issues to order at 10:33 a.m. Meeting was held on the Microsoft Office Teams platform.

1. Welcome and Introductions

Co-Chair Erica Pinto welcomed the Working Group members and introduced Tribal Chair Edwin “Thorpe” Romero (Barona). Tribal Chair Romero led the group in a blessing.

Co-Chair Erica Pinto and Senior Regional Planner Jane Clough facilitated self-introductions. Tribal Nations represented were Barona Band of Mission Indians; Jamul Indian Village of California; La Jolla Band of Luiseño Indians; Pala Band of Mission Indians; Rincon Band of Luiseño Indians; San Pasqual Band of Diegueño Indians; and Viejas Band of Kumeyaay Nation. Absent: Campo Kumeyaay Nation.

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes (Approve)

Action: Upon a motion by Thorpe Romero (Barona) and a second by John Beresford (La Jolla), the Working Group approved the minutes from its January 22 meeting. Yes: Chairman Edwin “Thorpe” Romero, Co-Chair Erica Pinto, John Beresford (La Jolla), Shasta Gaughen (Pala), Council Member Alfonso Kolb Sr. (Rincon), Andrew Orosco Jr. (San Pasqual), and Ray Teran (Viejas). No: None. Abstain: None. Absent: Campo Kumeyaay Nation, Iipay Nation of Santa Ysabel, La Posta Band of the Kumeyaay Nation, Mesa Grande Band of Mission Indians, Pauma Band of Luiseño Indians, and Sycuan Band of the Kumeyaay Nation.

3. Public Comments/Communications/Member Comments

Afsaneh Yavari (SafeTREC), discussed Safe Transportation Research and Education Center (SafeTREC) at UC Berkeley. SafeTREC focuses on data analysis and data tools, technology and road safety, and policy analysis and community outreach in the transportation realm. Afsaneh Yavari discussed the benefits of the program and encouraged the tribal nations to take advantage of the web-based program.

Chair’s Report

4. Co-Chairs’ Reports (Information)

Working Group Co-Chair Erica Pinto reported on the recent Native American Advisory Committee (NAAC) meeting. One of the topics discussed was cultural monitoring. NAAC is considering creating a subcommittee to address the issue of cultural monitoring. Co-Chair Pinto also provided an update to the CARES Act funding that has started contacting tribes to help tribal nations during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Director of Regional Planning Coleen Clementson reported on the current efforts at SANDAG to provide economic research on who is most vulnerable during the COVID-19 pandemic. Specifically, SANDAG is inquiring about the effect of this time of low-income residents, people of color, and tribal nations. Thus far, it has been discovered that computer accessibility is an issue in these communities more than other communities. Coleen Clementson also discussed the efforts to see if telecommuting is part of a long-term solution to reducing greenhouse gas emissions. It is a possibility that long-term telecommuting might significantly reduce roadway traffic. Finally, the Working Group received an update on the recent MOU agreement developed between SANDAG and the SCTCA in which SANDAG is providing \$200,000 to the SCTCA to pursue together detailed work for tribal transportation projects.

Consent

5. Tribal Transportation Self-Governance Program (Information)

Information was presented to the tribe about a Department of Transportation (DOT) program that is effective October 2020. The Tribal Transportation Self-Governance Program works with tribes to use DOT funding to provide tribes with grants that reduce administrative burdens.

6. Caltrans Sustainability Planning Grants (Information)

Seth Cutter (Caltrans) presented on the Caltrans Sustainability Planning Grants. Applications are expected to be released in late summer 2020. Tribes can apply to the program in order to address their planning needs.

Reports

7. Update on the Tribal Transportation Program Coordinating Committee (Discussion)

San Pasqual Director of Planning Andrew Orosco is one of two representatives from tribal nations near California on the Tribal Transportation Program Coordinating Committee. The Committee advises the Bureau of Indian Affairs on the implementation of the program.

Andrew Orosco (San Pasqual) updated the group on the Tribal Transportation Program Coordinating Committee. The Fast Act funding through the Tribal Transportation Program (TTP) is at the end of its 4-year period. The committee is investigating what options there are for tribes that have not spent all their money within this 4-year period. The Tribal Technical Assistance Program is still underway. Finally, the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) road inventory shift to Geographic Information Systems (GIS) is still underway.

8. Tribal Transportation Planning Capabilities and Needs Assessment (Discussion)

Caltrans and the Mineta Transportation Institute of San Jose State University (MTI) are conducting a study to assess transportation planning capabilities and needs of federally recognized tribes in California. The study is headed by researchers from MTI and Far Western Anthropological Research Group, Inc. The purpose of the study is to assess existing tribal understanding of state and tribal transportation planning processes to improve collaboration and responsiveness to transportation needs. Principal Investigator Dr. Seetha Reddy provided an overview of the project goals and request feedback on the survey instrument being deployed for the study.

9. Highway Safety Improvement Program - Tribal Set Aside (Discussion)

Bing Luu (Caltrans, District 11) discussed Caltrans Highway Safety Improvement Program for Cycle 10. There is approximately \$2 million in funding for a tribal set aside through the Highway Safety Improvement Program and approximately \$9.2 million through the Federal Highway Administration Tribal Program Safety Fund. The programs are administered through two separate applications, tribes can apply to receive funding from both programs. Tribes can apply to the main program but will be competing with other jurisdictions and must complete a Benefit-Cost Analysis.

10. Update on the Intra-regional Tribal Transportation Strategy (Information)

Since the last Working Group meeting, an Intra-regional Tribal Transportation Strategy task force was formed to discuss projects and monitor the project inventory in order to identify opportunities for funding and implementation. Several members of the taskforce reported out on tribal transportation projects, including a progress report on the SR94 Multiuse Pathway, an intersection at Campo, and several projects underway through the County.

11. Topics for Next Meeting and Adjournment (Discussion)

The next Interagency Technical Working Group on Tribal Transportation Issues meeting will be a presentation of the Vision Network for the 2021 Regional Plan in September. The Group agreed to Wednesday, September 3. It is still to be determine if this will be an in-person or virtual event.

Working Group Co-Chair Erica Pinto adjourned the meeting at 12:21 pm.

DRAFT

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

June 24, 2020

Jurisdiction	Name	Attended	Comments
Jamul Indian Village	Erica Pinto, Working Group Chair	Yes	
	Michael Hunter, Alternate	Yes	
San Pasqual Band of Diegueño Indians	Andrew Orosco, Jr. Vice Chair	Yes	
	Steven Cope	No	
Barona Band of Mission Indians	Edwin "Thorpe" Romero	Yes	
	Sheila Alvarez, Alternate	Yes	
Campo Kumeyaay Nation	Harry Cuero, Jr.	No	
	Marcus Cuero, Alternate	No	
lipay Nation of Santa Ysabel	Brandy Taylor	No	
La Jolla Band of Luiseno Indians	Fred Nelson, Jr.	No	
	John Beresford, Alternate	Yes	
La Posta Band of the Kumeyaay Nation	Eric LaChappa	Yes	
	James Hill, Alternate	No	
Pala Band of Mission Indians	Robert Smith	No	
	Anthony Ravago, Sr.	No	
	Shasta Gaughen, Alternate	No	
	Chris Nejo, Alternate	Yes	
Pauma Band of Luiseno Indians	Temet Aguilar	No	
	Venessa Brown	Yes	
Rincon Band of Luiseno Indians	Bo Mazzetti	No	
	Alfonso Kolb, Sr.	Yes	
Sycuan Band of the Kumeyaay Nation	Cody Martinez	No	
	Adam Day	Yes	
	Ania Rzepko	No	
Viejas Band of Kumeyaay Nation	Victor Woods	No	
	Samuel Brown, Alternate	No	
	Darwin Tewanger, Alternate	No	
	Ray Teran, Alternate	Yes	
Advisory Members			
Southern California Tribal Chairman's Association (SCTCA)	Denis Turner	No	
	Mike Connolly-Miskwish	Yes	
	Steve Wilkie	No	

Bureau of Indian Affairs, Southern California (BIA)	Leonard Gilmore Scarlett Carmona	Yes No
Caltrans (District 11)	Jose Ornelas Ann Fox Vanessa de la Rosa, Alt.	No Yes Yes
County of San Diego	Eric Lardy Richard Chin, Alt.	Yes Yes
Metropolitan Transit System	Denis Desmond Sharon Cooney	No No
North County Transit District	VACANT	

Other Attendees

- Seth Cutter
- Stephanie Captioner
- Jesus Garcia
- Lonora Graves
- Leonardo Espelet
- Bing Luu
- Ashley Parker
- Seetha Reddy
- David Reinke
- Afsaneh Yavari
- Matt Horton
- Lisa Haws

SANDAG Staff

- Coleen Clementson
- Jane Clough
- Tracy Ferchaw
- Eva Gabriel
- Madai Parra
- Audrey Porcella
- Samual Sanford