

**STATE TRANSPORTATION BOARD MEETING  
TELEPHONIC/VIDEO MEETING  
BOARD MEETING  
9:00 a.m., April 16, 2021  
NO MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC WILL BE ALLOWED TO ATTEND IN-PERSON**

**Call to Order**

Chairman Stratton called the State Transportation Board meeting to order at 9:01 a.m.

**Pledge**

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Floyd Roehrich, Jr., Executive Officer.

**Roll Call by Board Secretary Sherry Garcia**

A quorum of the State Transportation Board was present. **In attendance:** Chairman Stratton, Vice Chairman Thompson, Board Member Hammond, Board Member Knight, Board Member Searle, and Board Member Daniels by telephone conference. Chairman Meck was not present. There were approximately 76 members of the public in the audience

**Opening Remarks**

Chairman Stratton reminded members of the public, to keep their computer or phone muted during the meeting, unless called to speak during the Call to Audience.

**Title VI of the Civil Rights Act**

Floyd Roehrich, Jr., read the Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended. Floyd, also reminded individuals to fill out survey cards, with link shown on the agenda.

**Call to the Audience**

An opportunity was provided to members of the public to address the State Transportation Board. Members of the public were requested not to exceed a three minute time period for their comments.

ARIZONA STATE TRANSPORTATION BOARD  
STATE TRANSPORTATION BOARD MEETING

REPORTER'S TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

Webex Videoconference

April 16, 2021  
9:50 a.m.

REPORTED BY:

TERESA A. WATSON, RMR  
Certified Reporter  
Certificate No. 50876

PREPARED FOR:  
ADOT - STATE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

Perfecta Reporting  
(602) 421-3602

(Certified Copy)

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REPORTER'S TRANSCRIPT OF EXCERPT OF ELECTRONIC  
PROCEEDINGS, ADOT - STATE TRANSPORTATION BOARD, was reported  
from electronic media by TERESA A. WATSON, Registered Merit  
Reporter and a Certified Reporter in and for the State of  
Arizona.

PARTICIPANTS:

Board Members:

- Steven E. Stratton, Chairman
- Jesse Thompson, Vice Chairman
- Michael Hammond, Board Member
- Gary Knight, Board Member
- Richard Searle, Board Member
- Jenn Daniels, Board Member

AGENDA ITEMS

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1 (Beginning of excerpt.)

2 CHAIRMAN STRATTON: I will now call to order the  
3 board meeting. Move on to Item 1, the Director's report.

4 John, you're up again.

5 DIRECTOR HALIKOWSKI: Thanks, Mr. Chairman and  
6 board members.

7 A number of items I just want to bring to your  
8 attention, and we'll probably have a little more discussion with  
9 them as we talk about our legislative issues and what's  
10 happening there, but the number one thing I want to report on is  
11 ADOT signed a joint letter with the Maricopa Association of  
12 Governments and the Gila River Indian Community urging our  
13 Congressional delegation in the next appropriation bill to fully  
14 fund the expansion of I-10 between Phoenix and Casa Grande.

15 We also included in there the expansion of one  
16 additional lane in each direction for State Route 387, and also  
17 improvements to SR-89 and 189 on the Gila River Indian  
18 Community. So that joint letter was signed by the three  
19 organizations and sent to Congress, and Floyd, I would ask that  
20 we get a board -- the Board a copy of that, if we have not  
21 already done so.

22 The other issues we're dealing with right now,  
23 Mr. Chairman, on the federal side are, you know, talk of  
24 earmarks and whether those will come back. Katy will probably  
25 talk a little bit more about members having some allocation, I

1 think, in the neighborhood of \$15 million each for projects in  
2 their state. We've been asked by a couple, three of our  
3 Congressmen to provide them with some thoughts and ideas. You  
4 know, whether or not they'll be earmarks is still up in the air,  
5 but the U.S. DOT recently announced a billion dollars worth of  
6 grants that we're exploring to see if there's things and if we  
7 have matching capability here in Arizona to apply for some of  
8 those. And then, of course, we're waiting on the  
9 administration's proposal as it hits Congress as to what's  
10 exactly in there and how that might affect the state.

11           The other thing is we continue to work at the  
12 Legislature. Some of the project bills that were specific  
13 appropriations to projects have not made it through the process,  
14 but we're watching to see what comes into the budget as far as  
15 what's available for transportation at the end of the session.

16           The Board may be receiving more complaints about  
17 litter. We have seen an uptick in those complaints at ADOT, and  
18 with the exception of our volunteer groups, what we're trying to  
19 explain to the public is that, you know, litter is caused by  
20 folks either throwing things out of their window or not securing  
21 loads, but that the department, you know, the same folks that  
22 pick up the litter have to repair the guardrail, repair the  
23 pavements, ensure the signage is correct, all the other things  
24 we do to maintain the system, and unfortunately, we just don't  
25 have enough resources to constantly be picking up litter. So we

1 try to get to it as we can.

2           There have been some pavement noise complaints in  
3 Maricopa County. I don't know if our board members from  
4 Maricopa County are on the call, but as you know, the cost of  
5 replacing rubberized asphalt in Maricopa County is very high,  
6 and we've been piloting some diamond grinding as a quieting  
7 measure for vehicles using the freeway system. We've been  
8 getting some complaints from folks in local governments about  
9 pushing or putting the rubber back down, but at this point the  
10 financial resource just isn't there.

11           You might be hearing some concerns about the  
12 North South Freeway alignment. As you know, there's the draft  
13 tier one study with a preferred alignment in there. We've been  
14 getting questions from Pinal County and other local governments.  
15 We're continuing to educate them on the preferred alignment in  
16 light of the NEPA process and the choices that were made. So  
17 we're answering questions and listening to concerns, and just to  
18 let the Board know, those discussions continue about that tier  
19 one study.

20           As we talked about, the border mayors did meet  
21 with the Speaker of the House of Representatives, Rusty Bowers,  
22 myself and a number of folks this week, and we talked a lot  
23 about the Douglas port, the need for the connector road and  
24 other ports improvements in San Luis. So I'll stop there.

25           The other thing is in my report, I wanted to note

1 that Greg Byres' team, Ermalinda Gene and Don Sneed and a number  
2 of others have been working with folks on the Navajo Nation,  
3 added Many Farms, and recently met with them and the Northern  
4 Arizona Council of Governments to continue our discussions on  
5 Highway 191.

6 So I'll stop there, Mr. Chair, and we'll talk  
7 about legislation, I think, if Katy's on the line.

8 CHAIRMAN STRATTON: Prior to that, John, I have a  
9 couple questions, if you don't mind.

10 DIRECTOR HALIKOWSKI: Sure.

11 CHAIRMAN STRATTON: On the litter situation, I  
12 know that the local government and the state government both  
13 have not been able to utilize prison labor as supplemental labor  
14 during the pandemic, and I know locally that has caused problems  
15 with the same, litter and -- and also maintenance of weeds and  
16 that type of thing. Is that part of what's going on with the  
17 state?

18 DIRECTOR HALIKOWSKI: Yeah, it is part of it.  
19 You know, during the pandemic, the -- basically the prisons were  
20 in lockdown, and the other problem you have is that, you know,  
21 as far as radius of transport, you can use prison labor to a  
22 certain distance from the prison, but you can't transport folks  
23 all over the state to do that sort of work. So there have been  
24 limitations in that area, sir.

25 CHAIRMAN STRATTON: The other thing I would ask



1 is on the North South tier one study, please keep me involved,  
2 as that's in my district and I --

3 DIRECTOR HALIKOWSKI: I will.

4 CHAIRMAN STRATTON: -- and I know that I'm going  
5 to be getting contacted, so I would like to be up to date --

6 DIRECTOR HALIKOWSKI: Yeah.

7 CHAIRMAN STRATTON: -- when I get the calls,  
8 please.

9 DIRECTOR HALIKOWSKI: If you're agreeable,  
10 Mr. Chair, we'll just go ahead and schedule a meeting and catch  
11 you up on what's happening in that area.

12 CHAIRMAN STRATTON: That would be good. Thank  
13 you.

14 DIRECTOR HALIKOWSKI: Okay. Thank you.

15 CHAIRMAN STRATTON: Any other questions for John  
16 on that portion? Okay.

17 DIRECTOR HALIKOWSKI: So I believe Katy's on the  
18 line.

19 MS. PROCTOR: I'm here, Mr. Chairman --

20 DIRECTOR HALIKOWSKI: You're muted.

21 MS. PROCTOR: -- if you'd like a quick update.

22 Can you hear me?

23 DIRECTOR HALIKOWSKI: Katy can give you an  
24 update, Mr. Chair, on federal and state legislative activities.

25 CHAIRMAN STRATTON: Okay. Thank you.

1 MR. ROEHRICH: Yes, Katy, we can --

2 MS. PROCTOR: Good morning, Mr. Chair.

3 MR. ROEHRICH: -- hear you.

4 MS. PROCTOR: Okay. Wonderful. Good morning,  
5 Mr. Chair and members.

6 On the state side, today is the 96th day of the  
7 legislative session. As of this morning, 233 bills have been  
8 signed into law by the Governor. We're on track right now.  
9 Regular committee have finished. They wrapped up a couple weeks  
10 ago, and now the focus is moving traditionally over to the  
11 budget process.

12 The overall budget process is interesting this  
13 year, because our situation is very positive. Revenues are  
14 above projections, and the infusion of some of the extra federal  
15 moneys is giving the Legislature more space for budget  
16 decisions.

17 Meetings are in full swing right now with the  
18 members. They're talking about primarily the tax package and  
19 what that will look like, and most bills that have a budget  
20 impact are essentially stopped right now at the Rules Committee  
21 in the opposite chamber. So there are quite a few bills that  
22 are parked right now until they figure out what the full budget  
23 will look like, and then those will shake loose, and that  
24 includes several of the highway bills that you've heard about  
25 throughout the session. Many of them have moved on and will not

1 be moving much further. We're down to tracking about  
2 \$60 million now worth of highway bills. Some of those will end  
3 up in the budget, obviously.

4 When it comes to the federal side, as the  
5 Director mentioned, things are very busy right now. After  
6 passing the American Rescue Act in March, focus immediately  
7 shifted over to infrastructure, and both chambers are really  
8 looking to pass a surface reauthorization package later this  
9 summer.

10 The announcement of President Biden's separate  
11 \$2 trillion infrastructure plan will make for an interesting  
12 process. It's unclear right now how the surface bill will work  
13 with the President's plan, and if reconciliation ends up being  
14 the preferred process, that will limit the creation of some of  
15 the new programs that members are interested in.

16 The President's package includes a traditional  
17 infrastructure component like highways and bridges, along with  
18 social infrastructure concepts, and there are a lot of  
19 discussions right now about whether those two will separate out  
20 into different pieces of legislation. If so, there's a lot of  
21 conversation about the traditional infrastructure package having  
22 a lot of bipartisan support, but there's also still the issue of  
23 how to pay for it, and there's different beliefs about whether  
24 that should be user fees or whether that should be corporate tax  
25 increases.

1           The Senate EPW Committee this week had a  
2 subcommittee hearing about the Highway Trust Fund and the  
3 insolvency of the Highway Trust Fund, and clearly there is a lot  
4 concern about the ongoing funding process. In the meantime, the  
5 House is preparing to move forward with that reauthorization  
6 bill, and we're hearing that they may move to mark up as early  
7 as next month.

8           As part of that process, as the Director  
9 mentioned, some of the members are soliciting for what they're  
10 calling member designated projects options, and those would be  
11 included in that surface reauthorization package. We've heard  
12 that those packages are going to be looking about 15 to 20  
13 million per member, and members are going through various  
14 options to see what they wish to include in those processes.  
15 That is separate than the earmark, what they're calling  
16 community-based projects this year.

17           The earmark process runs through the  
18 Appropriations Committee, and those are much smaller dollar  
19 amounts. So we've got a couple different things happening at  
20 the same time, which does create a little bit of confusion.  
21 It's been a while since any of this has happened in Congress.  
22 We continue to remain in contact with our Congressional members  
23 and available to provide information, and we look forward to  
24 continuing this process and seeing how it all plays out.

25           And that concludes my report. I'm happy to

1 answer any questions you might have.

2 CHAIRMAN STRATTON: Thank you, Katy.

3 Any questions for Katy from the Board?

4 DIRECTOR HALIKOWSKI: I will just give her a  
5 shout-out, Mr. Chairman. Last weekend, she hiked 32 miles in  
6 and out of the Canyon in one day.

7 CHAIRMAN STRATTON: That's admirable. I really  
8 don't know what to say about that.

9 DIRECTOR HALIKOWSKI: Neither do I, but she's  
10 still breathing, so...

11 CHAIRMAN STRATTON: Do you have any last minute  
12 items other than Katy's hike?

13 DIRECTOR HALIKOWSKI: I don't, Mr. Chairman. If  
14 there's any other questions in between now and the next meeting,  
15 we can get back to individual board members.

16 CHAIRMAN STRATTON: Very good. Thank you.

17 DIRECTOR HALIKOWSKI: Thank you.

18 VICE CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: Steve, can you hear me?

19 CHAIRMAN STRATTON: Yes.

20 VICE CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: I do have a question.  
21 As all of you are aware, my concern getting more moneys for a  
22 road on the Hopi Navajo Reservation and (audio interruption) --

23 DIRECTOR HALIKOWSKI: So it -- in talking with  
24 Karla Petty, our Arizona Federal Highway administrator, I  
25 believe there is discussion in the bill that the President's

1 proposing for Indian reservation roads. I don't have the  
2 amounts with me right now, Mr. Thompson, but we can look into  
3 that and let you know what's happening federally.

4 State-wise, we're, as you know, meeting with  
5 folks up at Many Farms. Greg Byres can probably talk a little  
6 bit more about that with you, but I know we recently had a  
7 meeting with NACOG and some rep- -- representatives from the  
8 Nation there.

9 I don't know if there's any appropriations bills  
10 at the state legislature, Katy, involving Indian communities.

11 MS. PROCTOR: Yes, Director. There were two  
12 bills for the Hopi Route 60 project. I do not believe that  
13 either of them are still moving in the process at this time, but  
14 I would be happy to confirm that and get back to you. It sounds  
15 like they did not move past their final committee assignment in  
16 either chamber.

17 DIRECTOR HALIKOWSKI: So -- but it's not unheard  
18 of, Mr. Thompson, that as votes are gathered for the budget,  
19 those projects or others could appear back in the budget if  
20 those are requested by the members.

21 VICE CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: Thank you very much  
22 Chairman, John, Katy.

23 CHAIRMAN STRATTON: Any other questions?

24 Hearing none, we'll move on to the -- to Item 2,  
25 district engineer's report, for information and discussion only.

1 Randy Everett, Central District administrator.

2 Randy.

3 MR. EVERETT: Thank you. Good morning,  
4 Mr. Chairman, members of the Board.

5 Next slide, please.

6 So just want to tell you our key staff still  
7 remain pretty much the same. Myself as the senior division  
8 administrator, Dylan Cardie as the assistant district engineer,  
9 and then we have a new assistant district engineer in Micah  
10 Hannam.

11 Next slide.

12 We're busy. We were busy last year. We're even  
13 busier this year, and this busyness will probably lead into next  
14 year being very busy as well. So I want to today just go over  
15 some of the projects that are going on right now in the district  
16 and welcome you to the district, and let's go. Here we go.

17 (Indiscernible.) So Lindsay Road, down on our  
18 202 San Tan. That's pretty much just getting started. About 12  
19 percent done at this point in time. About 23 percent time  
20 completed. I do want to point out this is Haydon as the  
21 contractor, and you'll see as we go through these slides that  
22 we've got a really nice mix of contractors on our jobs. So  
23 we're spreading the work out, which is really good to see.

24 Next job is way out west. It's our Happy Valley  
25 to Lake Pleasant on the 303. That's also pretty much just

1 getting started, with about 25 percent of that project done and  
2 complete at this time. That's being contracted by our Sunland  
3 group.

4           We got this SR-24, swinging all the way back to  
5 the east again. This is an FNF project, and it is also just  
6 kind of getting out of the gate now at about 22, 23 percent  
7 complete, both time and completion.

8           I-17, this one's been going on for quite a while.  
9 This is a very complicated drainage job. It replaces two of our  
10 pump stations at I-17 and now will actually be a free flowing  
11 service down I-17. About 40 percent of the work is completed.  
12 It's running a little bit behind. As you can see, 68 percent of  
13 the time complete. Fisher Sand & Gravel has that project.

14           Then we have another big one in the middle of  
15 town, on Central and I-17. This one's on I-17 right at the  
16 Central Avenue Bridge. Pulice Construction has this. About 60  
17 percent of this project is now done. It's pretty much running  
18 on time at this point in time.

19           We've got the 101 Pima Freeway. It's finishing  
20 up. We should finish this one up in late summer is our hope.  
21 It is currently in the diamond grinding process. The street  
22 surfaces are being done right now. About 95 percent of this  
23 project is now complete. This is the Coffman/Ames joint venture  
24 team.

25           One project that we did just complete recently



1 was the other side, the 101 Price Freeway portion. This section  
2 came out really nice. It is now open to the public, and it is  
3 fully drivable. So if you get a chance, drive on that section.

4 Then another project that just finished up is our  
5 I-17 Pinnacle Peak. It is our first full DDI in Arizona. It's  
6 super exciting. Again, another one I would encourage you to  
7 drive on the DDI and get a feel for the DDI. FNF Construction  
8 just finished that up.

9 So we've got a couple of big ones coming. They  
10 will be opening bids on these within the next week or two.  
11 We've got a I-10/SR-85 to Verrado project that's out on I-10 in  
12 the west side of our town. That's about a \$105 million job, and  
13 that will, like I said, advertise -- or I'm sorry -- it will  
14 open bids almost any day now.

15 Then a final one I want to talk about is the  
16 I-10, a little bit closer into town, from 17 to Avondale. This  
17 is a pavement preservation project, and the bids on this will  
18 also open within the next week or so.

19 I do want to just point out that obviously the  
20 Broadway curve project is happening. That is in our major  
21 projects group. That is not really run out of the district, but  
22 we are very aware of it. That will also start in the summer,  
23 and that is about -- on I-10, that runs from the 202 San Tan,  
24 right around the corner to where the I-17 split happens. That's  
25 a big project, a major project obviously, and that is starting

1 up in the summer.

2 I am open to any questions that you may have, and  
3 thank you.

4 CHAIRMAN STRATTON: Does any board member have a  
5 question for Randy?

6 Hearing none, thank you, Randy. Great  
7 presentation, and we appreciate it.

8 MR. EVERETT: Thank you.

9 CHAIRMAN STRATTON: So we will now move on to  
10 Item 3, the consent agenda. Does any member want to remove an  
11 item from the consent?

12 MR. SEARLE: Chairman Stratton, I don't need to  
13 remove it, but there is -- should be a slight correction to the  
14 minutes. I was inadvertently given some type of a promotion  
15 that I didn't ask for. It refers to me as Chairman Searle, and  
16 it should be Board Member Searle.

17 CHAIRMAN STRATTON: I'll pass the gavel to you.  
18 Here you go.

19 MR. SEARLE: No. Thank you, sir.

20 MR. ROEHRICH: Could we interest you as  
21 Legislator Searle, perhaps, or Congressman?

22 MR. SEARLE: Well, I don't know if that's better  
23 or worse.

24 CHAIRMAN STRATTON: I'm sure that they will make  
25 that correction, Mr. Searle. Thank you.

1 Any other items to discuss?

2 If not, I'll entertain a motion that we approve  
3 the consent agenda as presented.

4 VICE CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: Chairman Stratton, this  
5 is the Vice Chairman. I make the motion to approve.

6 CHAIRMAN STRATTON: We have a motion by Vice  
7 Chairman. Do I have a second?

8 MR. KNIGHT: Second. Second.

9 CHAIRMAN STRATTON: I have a second by  
10 Mr. Knight.

11 Floyd, would you call the roll call vote, please?

12 MR. ROEHRICH: Yes, Mr. Chairman.

13 Vice Chairman Thompson.

14 VICE CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: Aye.

15 MR. ROEHRICH: Board Member Knight.

16 MR. KNIGHT: Aye.

17 MR. ROEHRICH: Board Member Searle.

18 MR. SEARLE: Aye.

19 MR. ROEHRICH: Board Member Hammond.

20 MR. HAMMOND: Aye.

21 MR. ROEHRICH: Board Member Daniels is not  
22 present.

23 Board Member Meck is not present.

24 Chairman Stratton.

25 CHAIRMAN STRATTON: Aye.

1 Thank you, Floyd. Motion carries.

2 We'll now move on to the financial report with  
3 Kristine Ward, Agenda Item 4, for information and discussion  
4 only. Kristine.

5 MS. WARD: Good morning, board members.

6 Rhett, thank you so much. If you can go to that  
7 first slide. That's great. Thank you.

8 So you'll see we're still in the yellow here,  
9 and that is because we are outside of our target zone. We are  
10 currently -- and our target zone, just so you know, our  
11 forecast, we try to keep them no more than 2 percent above  
12 forecast, no less than 1 percent below forecast. So we keep a  
13 very tight, tight target zone. We are right now outside of that  
14 target zone, at -- running with 4.7 percent above our forecast  
15 for the year, with about \$1.2 billion in revenues collected.

16 Now, you all know that HURF then flows down and  
17 has a number of distributions, and what that means to the  
18 program is that 20 million -- for the year, \$20 million more is  
19 flowing into the State Highway Fund than what was -- the program  
20 was originally built on.

21 I will let you know that this has been a -- as  
22 you might imagine, a very difficult period to forecast revenues  
23 for two reasons. One, of course, the pandemic, and the other,  
24 because we actually put a new system in, a new computer system  
25 in that accounts for revenues, and whenever you have a new

1 system, you have some initial bumps.

2 And what -- but what this means to the program  
3 is, fortunately, you can see the variations have been positive,  
4 and because of these revenues coming in ahead, two months ago we  
5 actually released dollars into the program, and this board  
6 approved the release of those dollars into the program. We  
7 increased the size of the program. So we've been responsive.  
8 This Board has been responsive to those additional funds being  
9 available, and that's what you approved a couple of months ago.

10 Where we are seeing our variances from forecast  
11 in terms of gasoline tax, you know, it's been unfortunate. We  
12 are 10 -- we are 10.1 percent below what we experienced in  
13 revenues in '21, but we actually forecasted to be below those  
14 revenues, and we're only .4 percent below our forecast. Where  
15 we are above forecast is vehicle license tax, where we're  
16 actually running ahead. So in total, that's really what's  
17 driving this variance from forecast.

18 Moving on to the next slide. We good? Thank  
19 you.

20 This goes into the categories specifically  
21 looking -- looking specifically at the month of March and where  
22 you get the variations in the individual month. So if you look  
23 at gasoline tax, you'll see that for the month of March, we were  
24 5.8 percent below forecast, 13.3 percent below last year. So  
25 last year, we experienced 43, almost \$44 million in tax, gas tax

1 revenues, where we only experienced 38 this year for the month  
2 of March. So those -- the impacts of the pandemic are  
3 continuing to impact our gas tax revenues.

4 In the area of vehicle license tax, however, just  
5 as I'd mentioned before, you'll see that we are running ahead of  
6 forecast by about 10.7 percent for the month of March. For the  
7 overall year, we're about 7.8 percent above forecast.

8 If we could move to the next slide and discuss  
9 the Regional Area Road Fund, RARF.

10 So we've collected about \$358 million to date,  
11 and we're running about 7.6 percent above FY '20. Right about  
12 3.3 percent above our forecast. So retail sales -- actually, if  
13 we go into the next slide, Rhett.

14 Retail sales have been -- have been a fascinating  
15 mystery through this -- through this pandemic in that it appears  
16 that the -- that the money that people are not spending on gas,  
17 they are going and having a good relationship with Amazon or  
18 something along those lines, because retail sales have been  
19 quite interesting to watch.

20 Overall, we are 17.1 percent year to date over FY  
21 '20. In terms of forecast, we have come in over forecast to the  
22 tune of 7 percent over our forecast. The -- but the unfortunate  
23 side, if you go down to restaurant and bar, you'll see that  
24 restaurant and bar is 13 percent below this same time last year,  
25 and 13 percent below year to date. So, fortunately -- I mean,

1 fortunately or unfortunately, in terms of forecast, we had  
2 anticipated and forecasted that this would be below. We're only  
3 1 percent -- we're about 1 percent, actually, above forecast.

4 Moving on to the next slide, this is the  
5 discussion of the federal aid program, our debt program and cash  
6 management, and I have nothing to report on -- in these areas.

7 If you have any questions, I would be happy to  
8 take them now.

9 CHAIRMAN STRATTON: Does the Board have any  
10 questions for Kristine?

11 Great job, Kristine. Thank you.

12 MS. WARD: Thank you, sir. Thank you, board  
13 members.

14 CHAIRMAN STRATTON: We'll now move on to Agenda  
15 Item 5 with Greg Byres, for information --

16 MR. ROEHRICH: So, Mr. Chairman, this is Floyd.  
17 Greg will get started in a second. I just wanted to note for  
18 the record that Board Member Jenn Daniels has joined the  
19 meeting. We were able to finally work out her connection.  
20 Thank you, sir.

21 MS. DANIELS: Thank you, all.

22 CHAIRMAN STRATTON: Thank you, Floyd, and  
23 welcome, Ms. Daniels.

24 We'll now move on to Agenda Item 5 with Greg  
25 Byres, information/discussion only. The Multimodal Planning

1 Division Report. Greg.

2 MR. BYRES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, board  
3 members. I just have a few slides to go through today.

4 The first that one we've got, I'm going to go  
5 through -- as I started last month, we're doing tribal  
6 transportation updates at part of our MPD update, as well as  
7 what's going on with our 2022 through 2026 program and starting  
8 up our 2023 to 2027 program.

9 So as far as the tribal transportation update,  
10 ADOT tribal liaison Ermalinda Gene continues to work with Many  
11 Farms Chapter, as well as the Navajo DOT, as the Director had  
12 stated earlier. We're working on potential projects for US-191  
13 on that section through Many Farms and to Chinle.

14 We also have tribal outreach has extended to  
15 assisting the tribal leaders with providing input on active tier  
16 one projects that we have across the state, making sure that we  
17 get all of the input that we need from each of the tribes on all  
18 of our projects that we have during our comment response  
19 periods.

20 We also have the ADOT Native Nation/tribal  
21 Government Consultation update was completed March 25th. That's  
22 a big milestone in getting all that done as well.

23 On the -- as far as our liaisons go, again, we  
24 have Ermalinda Gene, who takes care of the northern regions of  
25 the state, and Don Sneed that takes care of the southern regions



1 of the state. Just want to make sure everybody knows who they  
2 are.

3           And then the last thing we have is the five-year  
4 programs. For the '22 to '26 program, right now we have the  
5 project workshops that are ongoing for our planning level  
6 scoping. We had two this week. We have another, I believe, two  
7 scheduled for next week. Those are extremely important as far  
8 as making sure that we get all of our scopes correct as well as  
9 the budget amounts before those projects are entered into the  
10 program.

11           The 2023 to 2027 program, we've already kicked  
12 that off as far as our P2P process goes. We're looking at  
13 implementing some of the improvements and revisions that we've  
14 been looking at through our lessons learned process. We have  
15 continued -- there's -- as part of that is some increases in  
16 transparency for our P2P process. We also have a call for  
17 projects that was issued on April 2nd, and I believe all of the  
18 board members should have received that call for projects along  
19 with all of our COGs and MPOs.

20           So with that, that's all that I have for an  
21 update, if there's any questions.

22           CHAIRMAN STRATTON: Greg, would you remind us of  
23 the due date for those projects? What day you issued the call  
24 for?

25           MR. BYRES: I believe the due day is July 1st.

1 CHAIRMAN STRATTON: Okay. Thank you.

2 Any other questions for Greg?

3 Okay. Hearing none, we'll move on to Item 6, the  
4 PPAC items, with Greg Byres, for discussion and possible action.  
5 Greg.

6 MR. BYRES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, board  
7 members.

8 We have 11 projects that the Priority Planning  
9 Advisory Committee is bringing forward. Items 6A through 6C,  
10 these are three projects for project modification, and we bring  
11 these forward with a recommendation for approval.

12 CHAIRMAN STRATTON: Thank you, Greg.

13 Does any board member have any questions on those  
14 projects?

15 Hearing none, I'd accept a motion to approve.

16 MR. KNIGHT: Mr. Chair, this is Board Member  
17 Knight. I move to approve Items 6A to through 6C.

18 CHAIRMAN STRATTON: Thank you, Gary.

19 MR. SEARLE: This is Searle. I'll second.

20 CHAIRMAN STRATTON: Thank you, Richard.

21 We have a motion and a second. Any discussion?  
22 Floyd, would you conduct the roll call vote,  
23 please?

24 MR. ROEHRICH: Yes, Mr. Chairman.

25 Vice chairman Thompson.

1 VICE CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: Aye.

2 MR. ROEHRICH: Board Member Knight.

3 MR. KNIGHT: Aye.

4 MR. ROEHRICH: About Board Member Searle.

5 MR. SEARLE: Aye.

6 MR. ROEHRICH: Board Member Daniels.

7 MS. DANIELS: Aye.

8 MR. ROEHRICH: Board Member Hammond.

9 MR. HAMMOND: Aye.

10 MR. ROEHRICH: Board Member Meck is not present.

11 Chairman Stratton.

12 CHAIRMAN STRATTON: Aye.

13 Thank you very much. The motion passes.

14 We'll now move on. Greg.

15 MR. BYRES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

16 The next items we have are Items 6D through 6K.

17 These are eight new projects that are coming forward to the

18 Board with a recommendation for approval from the Priority

19 Planning Advisory Committee.

20 CHAIRMAN STRATTON: Thank you, Greg.

21 Do I hear a motion?

22 MR. SEARLE: I'll make a motion to approve. This

23 is Searle.

24 CHAIRMAN STRATTON: Thank you, Mr. Searle.

25 Second?

1 MR. KNIGHT: Second.

2 CHAIRMAN STRATTON: Do I have -- thank you. So I  
3 have a motion by Mr. Searle, a second by Mr. Knight. Any  
4 discussion?

5 Floyd, would you call the roll call vote, please?

6 MR. ROEHRICH: Vice Chairman Thompson.

7 VICE CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: Aye.

8 MR. ROEHRICH: Member Knight.

9 MR. KNIGHT: Aye.

10 MR. ROEHRICH: Member Searle.

11 MR. SEARLE: Aye.

12 MR. ROEHRICH: Member Daniels.

13 MS. DANIELS: Aye.

14 MR. ROEHRICH: Member Hammond.

15 MR. HAMMOND: Aye.

16 MR. ROEHRICH: Member Meck is not present.

17 And Chairman Stratton.

18 CHAIRMAN STRATTON: Aye.

19 Motion passes. Thank you.

20 We'll move on to Agenda Item 7, the state  
21 engineer's report, with Dallas Hammit. This is for information  
22 and discussion only. Dallas.

23 MR. HAMMIT: Good morning, Mr. Chairman.

24 Currently, right now we have 77 projects under  
25 construction, totaling \$1.6 billion. In March we finalized 10

1 projects totaling \$65 million, and year to date we have  
2 finalized 50 projects.

3 A couple of project updates real quick. Last  
4 month, Mr. Chairman, we talked about the Lion Springs and  
5 completing the design. We do need additional funds. It was  
6 pointed out to me we have enough money to complete the work this  
7 year. So those additional funds will show up in next year's  
8 program instead of a PPAC agenda. So we will not lose any  
9 ground, but instead of doing a PPAC agenda item to come to the  
10 Board, it will just be a part of next year's five-year program  
11 to complete the design.

12 CHAIRMAN STRATTON: Okay.

13 MR. HAMMIT: On I- -- Mr. Chairman, go ahead.

14 CHAIRMAN STRATTON: I just said okay.

15 MR. HAMMIT: On I-17, and there's been quite a  
16 bit of discussion about broadband nationally and within the  
17 state. We did advertise a project a couple of weeks ago. We  
18 will open it at the end of this month, April 30th, and it will  
19 be to install fiber along the I-17 corridor, basically the  
20 northern half of the -- of the corridor. This is paid for by  
21 federal (indiscernible) funds, so not federal funds, but there  
22 are funds from the Governor's office that will allow broadband  
23 to be used for education and advancement both publicly and  
24 privately.

25 The benefit that we get, we get fiber for smart

1 highways that is being paid for by this project. So it's a good  
2 deal for us. This is a first of probably about five projects  
3 that the department will put out in the coming years, both on  
4 I-17, I-19 and potentially I-40 going forward. They will come  
5 to the Board to approve the contract. Again, there's no state  
6 highway or FHWA funds, but they are on the state highway system,  
7 so we will bring it to the Board to award the projects.

8           And then the last project that I wanted to point  
9 out is on SR-199 in the Chinle, Many Farms area. If the Board  
10 remembers, we did receive a bridge bundling grant that assists  
11 us, about \$10 million, to improve bridges along that corridor.  
12 So we have four bridges that we're making improvements. Two of  
13 them are deck replacements. There's another full bridge  
14 replacement on that corridor. It's a \$20 million project, and  
15 that was authorized by the Federal Highway Administration, and  
16 we will move to construction in the next few months.

17           And that is all I have for the state engineer's  
18 report.

19           CHAIRMAN STRATTON: Dallas, in my area, I know  
20 that there's -- there have been (audio interruption) some road  
21 closures and some effect on our highways. Last year we had some  
22 trouble with The Forest Service and letting us get ahead of the  
23 game with guardrail and back burning and (audio interruption).  
24 Are we having more cooperation this year?

25           MR. HAMMIT: Mr. Chairman, I will follow up with

1 our district engineers. I know we are in communication, but I  
2 will follow up and report back on how that communication is  
3 going.

4 CHAIRMAN STRATTON: If you would, please. Thank  
5 you.

6 Do we have any other questions for Dallas?

7 DIRECTOR HALIKOWSKI: I would just say,  
8 Mr. Chairman, and echoing Dallas' comment, I have been on calls  
9 with Director Tenney of our Forest Services. So we'll continue  
10 to discuss with him and press that as we get into fire season  
11 and come back and talk more to the Board.

12 So, you know, there are a number of issues we're  
13 looking at. One is also how we can secure a water supply for  
14 fires along I-17 between Phoenix and Cordes Junction. So  
15 there's a number of things we're talking about, and we'll  
16 continue to coordinate with his office.

17 MR. STRATTON: Thank you, John. I appreciate it.

18 Any questions for Dallas?

19 Okay. Hearing none, we'll move on to Agenda Item  
20 8, construction contracts, for discussion and possible action.  
21 Dallas.

22 MR. HAMMIT: Mr. Chairman and Board, thank you  
23 for approving the two items under the consent agenda. We do  
24 have two projects that will remain -- need a little explanation.  
25 So if we could go to Item 8A. Thank you.

1                   This is a project that's doing guardrail  
2 improvements up on State Route 87 near the Payson area. The low  
3 bid on the project was 4 million (audio interruption) 747  
4 dollars -- excuse me. I'll start over. \$4,747,474. The  
5 State's estimate was \$4,074,625. It was over the State's  
6 estimate by \$672,850, or 16.5 percent. We saw  
7 higher-than-expected pricing in the material costs and then also  
8 the maintenance and protection of traffic. The department has  
9 reviewed the bid and believes it is a responsive and responsible  
10 bid and recommends award to Fann Construction, Inc.

11                   CHAIRMAN STRATTON: Do I hear a motion to approve  
12 as presented?

13                   MR. KNIGHT: So moved. This is Board Member  
14 Knight.

15                   CHAIRMAN STRATTON: And a second?

16                   VICE CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: Second.

17                   CHAIRMAN STRATTON: Okay. I have a motion by  
18 Board Member Knight, a second by Vice Chairman Thompson, I  
19 believe. Any questions for Dallas?

20                   Hearing none, Floyd, would you conduct the roll  
21 call vote, please?

22                   MR. ROEHRICH: Vice Chairman Thompson.

23                   VICE CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: Aye.

24                   MR. ROEHRICH: Member Knight.

25                   MR. KNIGHT: Aye.



1 MR. ROEHRICH: Member Searle.

2 MR. SEARLE: Aye.

3 MR. ROEHRICH: Member Daniels.

4 MS. DANIELS: Aye.

5 MR. ROEHRICH: Member Hammond.

6 MR. HAMMOND: Aye.

7 MR. ROEHRICH: Member Meck is not present.

8 And Chairman Stratton.

9 CHAIRMAN STRATTON: Aye.

10 Motion passes.

11 Let's move to Item 8B, Dallas.

12 MR. HAMMIT: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

13 Item 8B is a pavement rehabilitation project on  
14 State Route 179. On that project the low bid was \$4,249,000.  
15 The State's estimate was \$4,162,858. It was over the State's  
16 estimate by \$86,142, or 2.1 percent.

17 The reason I am giving some explanation on this  
18 project is on the bid we did have something that it was a little  
19 unique, and I have not seen this in the past. On the project,  
20 when we opened bids, the low bidder, as did all three bidders,  
21 have proposed to do a DBE sub to meet their contract goals.  
22 After the time of the bid and after the five days when the DBE  
23 affidavits came into the department, that firm was sold, and the  
24 new firm is not an approved DBE firm within the State of  
25 Arizona.

1           As we reviewed the documents, we do believe that  
2 the contractor made a good faith effort, and thus, the  
3 department believes that the bid is a responsive and responsible  
4 bid and recommends award to Sunland Asphalt Construction Company  
5 -- or Inc.

6           One thing to note on that, the low bidder has  
7 agreed to meet all DBE goals. They will just have to get a  
8 different firm to do it.

9           CHAIRMAN STRATTON: Very good. Is there a motion  
10 to award Item 8B to Sunland Asphalt & Construction, Inc.?

11          MS. DANIELS: So moved.

12          CHAIRMAN STRATTON: I have a motion. Do I have a  
13 second?

14          VICE CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: Second.

15          CHAIRMAN STRATTON: I have a motion by  
16 Ms. Daniels. I have a second by Mr. Knight, I believe.

17          MR. ROEHRICH: Mr. Chairman, the second was by  
18 Vice Chairman Thompson.

19          CHAIRMAN STRATTON: Okay. Thank you.

20          Is there any discussion?

21          MR. SEARLE: Chairman Stratton, not to be a --

22          CHAIRMAN STRATTON: Go ahead.

23          MR. SEARLE: -- cause a problem. I'm curious. A  
24 year ago we had a contractor that did not meet the DBE  
25 requirements, and we did not give the contract to them. What's

1 different this time? Because that other contractor could have  
2 agreed to meet the DBE requirements.

3 MR. HAMMIT: Mr. Chairman, Member Searle, what  
4 we saw different this time that at the time of bid and when  
5 they submitted their information, they did meet the goals. It  
6 was not any fault of theirs that the firm sold and changed  
7 hands and no longer met -- the new firm doesn't meet the DBE  
8 requirements. So when we reviewed it, the contractor and all  
9 three bidders on this project had used the same sub. They  
10 made a good faith effort. When they placed their bid, they  
11 would have, if not for that sale of the firm, met all the DBE  
12 goals, and that's where we saw the difference.

13 CHAIRMAN STRATTON: Mr. Searle --

14 MR. SEARLE: I just wanted to bring it up.  
15 That's all. I don't...

16 CHAIRMAN STRATTON: Does that answer your  
17 question, Mr. Searle?

18 MR. SEARLE: Well, I guess. I didn't know if I  
19 agreed with the first one, but that's okay.

20 CHAIRMAN STRATTON: Okay. Any other questions?  
21 Floyd, would you conduct the roll call vote,  
22 please?

23 MR. ROEHRICH: Vice Chairman Thompson.

24 VICE CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: Aye.

25 MR. ROEHRICH: Member Knight.

1 MR. KNIGHT: Aye.

2 MR. ROEHRICH: Member Searle.

3 MR. SEARLE: Aye.

4 MR. ROEHRICH: Member Daniels.

5 MS. DANIELS: Aye.

6 MR. ROEHRICH: Member Hammond. Member Hammond.

7 He might be having some audio difficulties.

8 MR. HAMMOND: Somebody muted me. Aye.

9 MR. ROEHRICH: Thank you, sir.

10 Member Meck is not present.

11 And Chairman Stratton.

12 CHAIRMAN STRATTON: Aye. Motion carries.

13 I thought maybe you had decided to exit early  
14 since it's your last meeting.

15 Motion passes.

16 Moving on to Agenda Item 9. Any suggestions  
17 for the board members for future agendas? Any items? Other  
18 than what we've already mentioned.

19 MR. KNIGHT: Mr. Chairman, this is Board Member  
20 Knight.

21 CHAIRMAN STRATTON: Gary.

22 MR. KNIGHT: I would just like to request that  
23 I be kept in the loop on the progress with the San Luis Port  
24 of Entry 1 and Port of Entry 2 since they are in my district.  
25 I do -- I do get questions since I serve on the Greater Yuma

1 Port Authority and YMPO boards. So if I could be kept in the  
2 loop on the -- what's happening with the port of entries at  
3 San Luis, I'd appreciate it.

4 CHAIRMAN STRATTON: Gary, we're going to get an  
5 update on the work -- at the work session in June. Do you  
6 need information prior to that?

7 MR. KNIGHT: Only if there's some development  
8 that would be pertinent to -- that I would be asked questions  
9 about by San Luis and my region.

10 DIRECTOR HALIKOWSKI: So, Mr. Chairman, if I  
11 may, we did -- or I did, ADOT didn't, but several of the  
12 entities involved with the ports of entry, Fresh Produce and  
13 Port Authority, and I forget the last one, we did presentations  
14 for Speaker Bowers. Mr. Searle, we'd be happy to share those  
15 with you, and if you desire, just schedule a catch-up meeting  
16 and walk through what's happening at those ports of entry and  
17 what the status is.

18 MR. SEARLE: I think that would be appropriate.  
19 Thank you.

20 DIRECTOR HALIKOWSKI: Okay. We'll put those  
21 together for you, and Floyd will be our point person on making  
22 that meeting happen.

23 CHAIRMAN STRATTON: That would be (inaudible)  
24 Searle and Board Member (inaudible) those --

25 DIRECTOR HALIKOWSKI: Yes. Yes.

1 CHAIRMAN STRATTON: Thank you.

2 DIRECTOR HALIKOWSKI: We can (inaudible) meeting  
3 together.

4 CHAIRMAN STRATTON: Thank you.

5 Once again, Mike, I'd just like to thank you  
6 for everything, and I hope that in the future we can stay in  
7 touch. Thank you.

8 MR. HAMMOND: Thank you all. See you all soon, I  
9 hope.

10 MR. SEARLE: Well, I'm assuming, Mike, that if  
11 we go to Wickenburg, you'll be there.

12 MR. HAMMOND: I'll be there. What's --  
13 assuming, you know, we're not in pandemic number two.

14 MR. SEARLE: Yeah.

15 CHAIRMAN STRATTON: Do I have a motion to  
16 adjourn?

17 MR. KNIGHT: So moved.

18 MR. HAMMOND: So moved.

19 CHAIRMAN STRATTON: Thank you. I have a motion  
20 and a second. All in favor say aye.

21 BOARD MEMBERS: Aye.

22 UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Thank you.

23 CHAIRMAN STRATTON: Meeting adjourned.

24 (Meeting adjourned at 10:38 a.m.)

25

1 STATE OF ARIZONA     )  
 2 COUNTY OF MARICOPA }     ss.

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BE IT KNOWN that the foregoing proceedings were reported by me, TERESA A. WATSON, Registered Merit Reporter, Certified Reporter, Certificate No. 50876, State of Arizona, from an electronic recording and were reduced to written form under my direction; that the foregoing 37 pages constitute a true and accurate transcript of said electronic recording, all done to the best of my skill and ability.

I FURTHER CERTIFY that I am in no way related to any of the parties hereto, nor am I in any way interested in the outcome hereof.

DATED at Phoenix, Arizona, this 11th day of May 2021.

          Teresa A. Watson            
 TERESA A. WATSON, RMR  
 Certified Reporter  
 Certificate No. 50876

**Adjournment**

***A motion to adjourn the April 16, 2021, State Transportation Board meeting was made by Board Member Gary Knight and seconded by Board Member Michael Hammond. In a voice vote, the motion carried.***

**Meeting adjourned at 10:38 a.m. PST.**

Not Available for Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Steven Stratton, Chairman  
State Transportation Board

Not Available for Signature \_\_\_\_\_

John S. Halikowski, Director  
Arizona Department of Transportation