

**STATE TRANSPORTATION BOARD MEETING  
IN PERSON WITH OPTIONAL TELEPHONIC/WEBEX ATTENDANCE  
9:00am, September 16, 2022  
City of Maricopa  
39700 West Civic Center Plaza  
Maricopa, Arizona 85138**

**Call to Order**

Chairman Jesse Thompson called the State Transportation Board Meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

**Pledge**

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

**Roll Call by Sherry Garcia**

A quorum of the State Transportation Board was present. **In attendance (in person):** Chairman Jesse Thompson, Vice Chairman Knight, Board Member Maxwell, Board Member Stratton, Board Member Searle. **In attendance (via WebEx):** Board Member Meck. **Absent:** Board Member Daniels. There were approximately 60 members of the public in the audience on-line and approximately 60 members of the public in the audience in person.

**Opening Remarks**

Vice Chairman Knight 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  
BOARD MEETING

VIA WEBEX AND IN PERSON AT:

CITY OF MARICOPA  
39700 West Civic Center Plaza  
Maricopa, Arizona 85138

September 16, 2022  
9:00 a.m.

REPORTED BY:  
TERESA A. WATSON, RMR  
Certified Reporter  
Certificate No. 50876

Perfecta Reporting  
(602) 421-3602

PREPARED FOR:  
ADOT - STATE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

**(Certified Copy)**

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

5

6 PARTICIPANTS:

7 Board Members:

8

Jesse Thompson, Chairman

Gary Knight, Vice Chairman

9

Ted Maxwell, Board Member

Jenn Daniels, Board Member (Absent)

10

Richard Searle, Board Member

Jackie Meck, Board Member (via Webex)

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Steve Stratton, Board Member

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CALL TO THE AUDIENCE

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Rich Vitiello, Maricopa City Council Member..... 13

Regina Salas, Flagstaff City Council/Metro Plan Chair,  
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Christian Price, President/CEO MEDA, Maricopa  
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Ron Smith, Community Member, City of Maricopa..... 20

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CALL TO THE AUDIENCE

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1 (Beginning of excerpt.)

2 CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: Now we will be moving on to  
3 call to the audience, and everyone will be muted when they call  
4 in to the meeting. When your name is called to provide your  
5 comments, you will indicate your presence by virtually raising  
6 your hand using your phone keypad or through the Webex  
7 application. The Webex host will guide you through the unmuting  
8 and muting process following the instructions included within  
9 the meeting agenda.

10 If you are in person, there is an opportunity for  
11 members of the public to discuss items of interest with the  
12 Board. Please fill out a Request For Public Input Form and give  
13 it to the board secretary if you wish to address the Board.

14 In the interest of time, a three-minute time  
15 limit will be imposed. Again, because of the time, we need to  
16 again emphasize the importance, a three-minute time limit will  
17 be imposed, and I'm sure most of you have been here before and  
18 you're aware of that.

19 So with that, I'd like to hand this over to --  
20 there are many people that will probably be speaking in person.  
21 Others will be calling in. So with that, Floyd, I'd like to  
22 turn this part over to you.

23 MR. ROEHRICH: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

24 We do have quite a few requests in person as well  
25 as a couple online requests, so we'll start with the in-person

1 requests, and our first speaker is Mayor Nancy Smith.

2 Mayor Smith.

3 MAYOR SMITH: Thank you.

4 As he indicated, I'm Mayor Nancy Smith, and I'm  
5 here to welcome you to the city of Maricopa. We're very proud  
6 of our community. We have you here every year, every month if  
7 you want to come here every month. We are centrally located.  
8 We'd love that. So feel free to come anytime you'd like, but we  
9 like the fact that you come and you see our wonderful city.

10 We've learned a lot, as I'm sure you are probably  
11 are aware, about the transportation process from our previous  
12 mayor, Christian Price. And I want to let you know that with a  
13 new mayor, you can count on the City of Maricopa's continued  
14 participation in your meetings. We're not letting up. I have  
15 the same passion for the city as do all our city council  
16 members. I'm just a little shorter, and so -- but we have the  
17 same passion, and we'll be here to represent for sure.

18 I understand that Christian has made you aware of  
19 the possible Proposition 469 to fund roads in Pinal County, and  
20 I've brought you copies if you don't mind sharing those and  
21 spreading them down. I do have copies for those in the public  
22 that would like to have those as well.

23 Prop 469, I want to give you an update, is  
24 currently now officially on the ballot. So we're excited about  
25 that, to have that election in November. A significant

1 marketing effort is underway to ensure all voters in Pinal  
2 County understand this proposition and the critical value. It  
3 has significant value throughout the Pinal County, but a lot of  
4 significant value here in the city of Maricopa as well. And so  
5 you'll see all of us are all decks -- all hands on deck right  
6 now, and we're excited to share the information about this  
7 proposition and how it will help Pinal County.

8           In Maricopa, obviously you know very well State  
9 Route 347 has significant challenges. You'll probably hear a  
10 lot about that today at the call to the public. And then we  
11 also have on Prop 469 the Sonoran Parkway -- Desert Parkway,  
12 which will connect a very important element of Maricopa to Casa  
13 Grande and all of the economic developments that stands within  
14 those two areas. So very key to us.

15           Just so you know, there are 16 ballot statements  
16 in favor of this proposition and zero opposed to this  
17 proposition. So we're currently hoping that the proposition  
18 passes and that we educate all of our voters, because it  
19 significantly will help all of the needs that we have on State  
20 Route 347.

21           As I close my comments, many of you were at the  
22 Transportation Summit over the last two days, and one thing I  
23 want you to know I heard loud and clear -- I heard this from  
24 Vincent Gallegos, Executive Director of CYMPO. He said there  
25 are five elements of getting transportation projects through the

1 process: Data, which is important. Resources, money, and other  
2 types of resources. Stakeholders, elected official interaction.  
3 Here I am, and we have several other city council members here  
4 and other elected officials as well. And public engagement.

5 So what I'd like to show you is the passion of  
6 Maricopa. Anyone from the city of Maricopa or around, please  
7 stand, wave. We're here to represent. We care about this city,  
8 and we care about safe transportation, and we're happy to be  
9 here and happy to have you here.

10 Thank you very much.

11 CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: Thank you, Mayor.

12 Floyd.

13 MR. ROEHRICH: Our next -- our next speaker is  
14 state senator T.J. Shope.

15 SENATOR SHOPE: A little gentle encouragement  
16 from the crowd.

17 Thank you, Chairman Thompson and members of the  
18 Board. For the record, T.J. Shope, state Senator, currently  
19 Legislative District 8, but at the turn of the year, District  
20 16, which the include the city of Maricopa.

21 I also wanted to join in the welcoming to this  
22 area. As we all know, just like the rest of the state of  
23 Arizona, there are numerous transportation needs. However, I  
24 want to assure you that the people in this room who are gathered  
25 here today, especially the city council members and the

1 residents who are involved with transportation issues or who  
2 live and breathe things like the 347 on a daily basis are here  
3 to be partners with this board. They want to do anything that  
4 they can, and I do as well, to help this board along and to ease  
5 transportation burdens, not just here in this community, but  
6 elsewhere around the state. Consider myself, consider the  
7 people in this audience a resource to you on some of these  
8 issues, and we look forward to the presentation.

9 I do want to say thank you for attending the  
10 Transportation Summit as well over the last couple of days.  
11 Always good information, and for those of you who may not be  
12 aware in the audience, there was a fantastic presentation, rural  
13 transportation, that was very, very well attended from all  
14 corners of the state, and a lot of good information, and I know  
15 that you all will be taking that home with you, but you probably  
16 know about most of those issues already, but it's good to offer  
17 all of us to get together. We think of ourselves, obviously, in  
18 a silo right here, but whenever we look around and see our  
19 neighbors and other places of the state are experiencing  
20 difficulty as well, it's always good to share in that and try to  
21 figure out solutions.

22 Hopefully, as a legislator, we'll be able to go  
23 ahead and continue to make investments in the state of Arizona's  
24 transportation grid, not just roads, but our airports and other  
25 areas of transportation needs across the state, and we look

1 forward to being partners with you in those efforts. So thank  
2 you for being here in Maricopa.

3 CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: Thank you, Senator. Thank  
4 you very much for those comments.

5 Floyd.

6 MR. ROEHRICH: Our next speaker is representative  
7 Teresa Martinez. Ms. Martinez.

8 MS. MARTINEZ: Hi. Welcome to Maricopa. We're  
9 so glad to have you here. I'm a rookie state representative. I  
10 was appointed to take the place of representative Bret Roberts  
11 to fulfill his term, and so I am just here encouraging all of  
12 you to really listen to what the community is going to say.

13 This community is not only the biggest in my  
14 district. It is also the newest. Only 19 years old, if I'm not  
15 mistaken. And as you've seen, the vision of the leadership from  
16 the city council, the leadership of former mayor Christian  
17 Price, current mayor Nancy Smith, Rich, Vince, Amber, these  
18 folks have really come together to create a vision for a  
19 prosperous community, but with the community and with that  
20 growth is going to be infrastructure.

21 The 347, as you know, is crucial to the town of  
22 Maricopa, but it's also crucial to Maricopa County. Just as  
23 crucial as the I-10 is with Casa Grande and Chandler. These two  
24 corridors, the I-10 and the 347, are really artery veins to the  
25 heart of the body, if we think about it that way. Pinal County

1 is literally the heart of the state of Arizona. We have Pima  
2 County to the south, Maricopa to the north, and with this we are  
3 going to -- the three counties -- bridge together. If we can  
4 improve our infrastructure and the way we transport goods, and  
5 most importantly, ourselves, down these roads, it is going to be  
6 incredible on the vision that our current leaders have for the  
7 magnificence that the State of Arizona can be.

8           And you gentlemen, I am so glad -- I actually  
9 have a little bit of an advantage, as I know Gary Knight very,  
10 very well, and he has been my dear, dear friend. I look forward  
11 to meeting and working with all of you. As a little bit -- I'm  
12 a little bit feisty. I'll always tell you what I think. I'm  
13 nowhere near as eloquent as Senator Shope or the other ones, but  
14 I can assure you that I am a fierce advocate for the things that  
15 I hold valuable, and the thing that I hold most valuable to me  
16 as a legislator are the people and the quality and the safety of  
17 their lives.

18           I thank Director Halikowski for coming to  
19 Maricopa at 4:30 p.m. Yes, that was done intentional, and I  
20 appreciate -- I appreciate the fact that you came with your  
21 magnificent staff. Katy Proctor has just been wonderful to work  
22 with. I look forward to the project that we're going to work  
23 together. I am committed to the investment that the money that  
24 the State Legislature can provide, and I just know that together  
25 Arizona is going to be the epitome of what a state should look

1 like. Thank you.

2 CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: Thank you for your comments  
3 as well, Representative Martinez. Appreciate it very much.

4 Floyd.

5 MR. ROEHRICH: Our next speaker is Dr. Yolanda  
6 Rodriguez.

7 DR. RODRIGUEZ: Good morning. Thank you,  
8 Chairman, and other members of the Board for taking the time to  
9 come out here to our beautiful city of Maricopa and to all the  
10 staff that has come with them, and of course, our supporters  
11 here in the lobby, in the room.

12 I am Dr. Yolanda Rodriguez. I am currently  
13 holding the position of the president of the City of Maricopa,  
14 Chamber of Commerce, representing businesses here in Maricopa.  
15 We would like to say that we would like to extend a word of  
16 support for improvements along the 347 corridor and other access  
17 points to our growing city. Being uniquely situated in -- it is  
18 important that our roads be improved, maintained and widened to  
19 support the growth of the community.

20 Maricopa is fast becoming a thriving mecca to  
21 small businesses, and we are looking to attract larger and  
22 medium-size business as well. It is important to have efficient  
23 and safe transportation. Likewise, as our community grows, the  
24 needs for reliable transportation and routes for law enforcement  
25 and emergency medical services is a must, as we cannot put a

1 value on human life. As we look to the future growth of our  
2 precious city, we encourage the state department of  
3 transportation to support and make a priority road improvements  
4 to support the continuing economic development of our business  
5 community, and that would not -- the business community I speak  
6 of is not simply the city of Maricopa. And although we are the  
7 fastest growing, and we have the biggest foresight, but it is  
8 also for the surrounding communities of Ak-Chin, Gila River  
9 Indian Community and also the Tohono O'odham Nation.

10 We also are hoping to attract more business to  
11 Arizona, which would provide a significant impact, not only in  
12 our city and Pinal County, but also the state. I am also quite  
13 fierce, as the senator, and I do stand in strong agreement, and  
14 if any of you have any questions or would like some individual  
15 stories as to why I feel it's extremely important to have the  
16 transportation really looked at for this area, please, I welcome  
17 you all to contact me.

18 Thank you so much for your time.

19 CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: Thank you, President  
20 Rodriguez, for your words of encouragement as well as support.  
21 Floyd.

22 MR. ROEHRICH: Our next speaker is Council Member  
23 Rich Vitiello.

24 MR. VITIELLO: My name is Rich Vitiello. I've  
25 been living in this city for 17 years now, going on 18. I'm a

1 council member, as you said there. Director, Vice Director, we  
2 appreciate the work you do. It's a very difficult job. I sit  
3 up there and have to make difficult decisions every day. The  
4 difference is you do it for the whole state. Thank you for what  
5 you do. Continue doing what you're doing, and from my family  
6 and the family of the City of Maricopa, we thank you for what  
7 you do.

8 I come with a little bit different direction.  
9 It's very personal to me. Seven years ago I came with Mayor  
10 Price to speak in front of the Board about a friend of mine who  
11 was in the accident on 347. He's still in a coma and will  
12 probably remain in a coma for the rest of his life. So every  
13 year the city of Maricopa gets together -- this is the fifth  
14 jersey from last year. The sixth jersey will be given to us  
15 next month when we have another softball tournament to raise  
16 money for the 347. He was up on the 347 during that horrific  
17 accident. A part flew through the window -- he wasn't even in  
18 the accident -- hit him in the head, and like I said, he's  
19 laying in a coma, probably for the rest of his life.

20 His family relies on donations. He's a  
21 correction officer -- or was a correction officer. He'll always  
22 be a correction officer to us here in the city of Maricopa. It  
23 tugs on my heart to have to come and stand here time after time  
24 and literally ask you and beg for the funds not only for my  
25 friend, but for the 30,000 people who drive out of here every

1 single day, and I can vouch for that, because I've been there  
2 and I've stood there and watched them drive by.

3           So please, let's do what it takes to save not  
4 only my buddy's life, but the many other lives that have gone  
5 because we just can't get the funding. And again, I know it's  
6 difficult. I'm sure you hear this story a lot, but please,  
7 let's dig deep, and let's look at the people who've died on this  
8 road and the accidents that have occurred because we can't come  
9 up with the funding.

10           So again, I want to thank you for listening to  
11 me. I want to thank you for the job that you guys do, because I  
12 really do appreciate it. It's hard to have money or give out  
13 money that you don't have, but this one's a life threatening  
14 one. So please, dig deep. See what you guys can do, and I  
15 appreciate everything you do.

16           Thank you.

17           CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: Thank you, Rich, Council  
18 Member. Appreciate you sharing the personal story with us. So  
19 thank you.

20           Floyd.

21           MR. ROEHRICH: Our next speaker is council member  
22 Regina Salas. Ms. Salas.

23           MS. SALAS: Good morning, Flagstaff City Council  
24 Member Regina Salas, and I also serve on Metroplan Greater  
25 Flagstaff Board, and the vice chair of Rural Transportation

1 Advocacy Council.

2           Thank you, Mr. Chair, for your participation  
3 on -- and attendance, the Rural Transportation Summit the last  
4 couple of days, and as well as serving on our Greater Flagstaff  
5 MetroPlan Board. I also thank the other board members who  
6 attended the Rural Transportation Summit, Vice Chair Knight,  
7 Board Member Steve Stratton. Excuse me.

8           I'm here today to recognize Director Halikowski  
9 and his amazing ADOT team. As you may know, directors of other  
10 councils and governments and metro planning organizations have  
11 been working with ADOT staff all year on a particular issue.  
12 Their goal has been to come up with a joint recommendation on  
13 distribution of the STBG, Surface Transportation Block Grant  
14 funding.

15           What you also may not know is that distribution  
16 of the STBG funds to small COGs and MPOs has been flagged for  
17 well over ten years. Specifically, STBG funding to the state  
18 has increased 56 percent, or \$40 million, while STBG passthrough  
19 funding to small COGs and MPOs has increased zero percent, or  
20 zero dollars. All the COGs and MPO directors are working with  
21 Director Halikowski, and he seemed to come up with a joint  
22 request. Decisions have not yet been made. Recommendations are  
23 still being finalized. However, I want to recognize the  
24 collaboration and the work of Mr. Greg Byres, Paul Patane and  
25 Kristine Ward from Director Halikowski's office. These

1 individuals have been working with staff, COGs and MPOs around  
2 the state, and we appreciate the great dialogue.

3           Lastly, also, on behalf of our northern Arizona  
4 region, I thank ADOT in advance and the Transportation Board for  
5 continued effort in flood mitigation and attenuation on  
6 Highway 180 and 89 that they have recently been devastated by  
7 flooding due to burn scar.

8           CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: Uh-huh.

9           MS. SALAS: And lastly, I also want to invite  
10 everyone to please come visit Flagstaff and we will host your  
11 meetings there. Thank you for building a great transportation  
12 in the state of Arizona, and have a great meeting, from my  
13 grateful heart to yourself. Thank you.

14           CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: Thank you, Ms. Salas.  
15 Appreciate those comments, talking about issues that are not  
16 only important to you, but others within the family.

17           So Floyd.

18           MR. ROEHRICH: Our next speaker is Mr. Christian  
19 Price. Mr. Price.

20           MR. PRICE: Thank you, Board Chair, Jesse, and so  
21 many of you up there. I know you've -- many times -- I'll be  
22 very brief in the fact that you have the army here today hearing  
23 about 347, so thank you for coming to the city of Maricopa, and,  
24 of course, you'll see me at the subsequent meetings from here  
25 until eternity. So you can't get rid of me that easy.

1           This has been quite a great transportation week  
2 as we met in the Rural Transportation conference yesterday, at  
3 the Arizona League of Cities and Towns a week or two ago. We  
4 had many great transportation conversations, and then just now,  
5 over next door, we had a transportation meeting, Pinal  
6 Partnership, and Director Halikowski was kind enough to honor us  
7 with his presence there.

8           And so I just wanted to thank ADOT. You know,  
9 they get a lot of negativity, especially where they're so  
10 involved in a roadway that affects my city so greatly, but at  
11 the end of the day we appreciate your efforts, and we're  
12 thankful for your partnership. Indeed, these folks are  
13 well-versed in their ask for help on the 347 and -- you know, as  
14 it protrudes through the middle of our city, but I know that in  
15 time and with creativity and working together, we'll get there.

16           I wanted to issue just two quick statements, and  
17 that is that the Prop 469 is before us here in Pinal County.  
18 This is the re-authorization of the half cent sales tax that was  
19 initially offered in 2017, and this will allow additional moneys  
20 for these potential projects, which again, initially was about  
21 \$30 million for the 347. Now it's upward closer to 50 under the  
22 current proposition, and so that certainly helps with inflation  
23 and other things.

24           So again, this is a tag team effort. We need  
25 your help. We need the help from the voters here in Pinal

1 County, and I think together we'll be able to get there.  
2 Certainly appreciate Gila River and Ak-Chin for all that they  
3 have done to help make this a possibility. We wouldn't be here  
4 today without their help as well.

5           And last but not least, and I know this is more  
6 of a question. I'm going to direct it to Director Halikowski,  
7 but he can answer it in his -- sorry. Putting you on the spot.  
8 You can answer it in your director's report, because obviously  
9 it's not appropriate here, but I wanted to also mention the  
10 I-11. As you know, I'm the chairman of the I-11 coalition.  
11 This is a really big deal to the city of Maricopa. We want to  
12 see that this roadway eventually makes it through. I know it's  
13 a long-term prospect, but at the same time we're done with the  
14 Tier 1 studies. We're on to Tier 2. The Legislature was able  
15 to fund money this year for one segment of the Tier 2 study, and  
16 so the question that I have for Director Halikowski is perhaps  
17 you could address kind of where we're at from an ADOT  
18 perspective on the Tier 2 funding or plans in the future to help  
19 move that particular study forward as well as others in the  
20 future.

21           So with that, I'll sit down and be quiet, but  
22 thank you very much for your service, and thank you, Director,  
23 for all your help. Appreciate it.

24           CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: Thank you very much,  
25 Christian. Heard you many times, and we heard you loud and

1 clear, so thank you.

2 Floyd.

3 MR. ROEHRICH: Mr. Ron Smith. Mr. Smith.

4 MR. SMITH: So I get to follow Mayor Price.

5 My name is Ron Smith. I'm a city of Maricopa  
6 resident and a member of the Age Friendly Advisory Committee.  
7 My wife and I moved to Maricopa over 15 years ago. At that  
8 time, our only major concern regarding the city was the lack of  
9 a hospital and even an emergency care facility. We were told  
10 that the city had excellent paramedics, and they do. SR-347 was  
11 busy but not a perceived problem at that time.

12 Today we're no longer young retirees, and health  
13 issues are always topics of concern. Injuries from a fall or a  
14 heart attack are always a real possibility. Many of our  
15 residents' physicians still practice in the greater Phoenix area  
16 and are affiliated with hospitals there.

17 Our paramedics are still great, but 347 is not.  
18 Even going to a scheduled doctor's appointment is a challenge,  
19 and needing transport to a valley hospital can be a crapshoot,  
20 frankly. We have about 7,000 seniors who have to worry about  
21 these problems, not only for themselves, but for family and  
22 friends. What about a daughter or a daughter-in-law who is  
23 about to give birth prematurely? What about the grandchildren  
24 taking a serious fall on their head? Perhaps a parent living in  
25 the valley has a serious injury and they're near death. Imagine

1 your frustration trying to reach their bedside.

2           Our sons visit us often here. Just last Sunday  
3 night, our younger son was driving back on 347 to Gilbert when  
4 our older son called us to say he was rushing to St. Joe's  
5 Hospital because they'd found a kidney for him. Imagine a  
6 potential transplant recipient being caught in a 347 closure  
7 risking an organ transplant.

8           SR-347 is a lifeline for many critical resources  
9 that may be needed quickly in a life changing event for anyone  
10 who lives in the city. Given the current design of 347,  
11 accidents often result in road closures. Sometimes long  
12 closures. This uncertainty regarding 347 has caused some city  
13 residents to move elsewhere. It is also (indiscernible) to  
14 growth of medical services of the city because of the  
15 uncertainty of travel.

16           Serious changes need to be made to the current  
17 road design to better facilitate traffic flow and safety. In  
18 the short-term, though, better coordination and support of the  
19 three different law enforcement agencies that currently patrol  
20 347 might be extremely useful in correcting the dangerous  
21 situations that currently exist.

22           Impatient, frustrated drivers create many  
23 dangerous traffic scenarios that already resulted in too many  
24 fatal accidents. Until we are able to improve the design and  
25 safety of 347, better enforcement of traffic regulations might

1 help us to save lives. Your support on this issue would be  
2 greatly appreciated. We appreciate all that you're doing, and  
3 we thank you for being here.

4 CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: Thank you, Ron, for sharing  
5 your story with us and then your concern.

6 Floyd.

7 MR. ROEHRICH: Our next speaker is Mr. Bill  
8 Robertson. Mr. Robertson.

9 MR. ROBERTSON: Mr. Chairman, Board Members,  
10 Director, welcome to Maricopa. The best little city in the  
11 Southwest. We believe that.

12 My name is Bill Robertson. I'm a resident of  
13 Maricopa. I'm also a commissioner on the Maricopa Planning and  
14 Zoning Commission.

15 Board Members, Maricopa is the second fastest  
16 growing city in Arizona and possibly the Southwest. Maricopa is  
17 a very young city facing many challenges, with the biggest  
18 challenge being a lack of transportation, infrastructure, and  
19 being landlocked by our great neighbors of the Gila River Indian  
20 Community and Ak-Chin Indian Community, who are also partners in  
21 our quest for a better 347. So being landlocked hampers the  
22 City of Maricopa's ability to build roads in and out of the  
23 community. So we have to rely on state projects.

24 I'll focus my comments on some interim safety  
25 needs and increasing impact of some drive-through tourism that

1 comes right through Maricopa on a regular basis that you may not  
2 be aware of. Currently, Maricopa has over 27,000 occupied  
3 homes, with 70,000 entitled for construction. Think about that.  
4 Three times the amount we currently have are entitled and on the  
5 books for growth. Better than 50 percent of those folks travel  
6 in and out of this country -- out of this county -- or the city  
7 every day.

8 Maricopa sits right in the middle of a major  
9 tourism corridor. People travel from all over the valley to  
10 Rocky Point, Mexico, to Yuma, to San Diego. They have to come  
11 through Arizona -- or through Maricopa, this central part of  
12 Arizona on their way. Now add in the off road sand dunes  
13 recreation area down off of -- towards Yuma. Add in the new,  
14 super mega surf park we're adding to our community, which will  
15 serve this part of the southwest United States as a tourist  
16 attraction, and the success of the Apex motorsports park that is  
17 now in their second expansion. These are all important projects  
18 that add to traffic.

19 While we don't a crystal ball, it is clear to see  
20 that transportation infrastructure and expansion in and around  
21 Maricopa is needed now and likely well into the future. The  
22 immediate safety concerns include enforcement of 347. When I  
23 talk to Sheriff Lamb, he says, we don't send a patrol car over  
24 there, because you only have eight or nine miles that are  
25 actually in the citty -- or in the county, and the rest is in

1 Maricopa County. DPS handles it and Gila River handles it, and  
2 they do, but most of your DPS patrolmen are very busy on the  
3 I-10, which serves the same district, and Gila River is an  
4 expansive reservation, as you know.

5 So improve enforcement to slow down the bloodshed  
6 while we wait in line to become part of your five-year plan is  
7 what we're asking for. Maricopa understands the system and  
8 stands ready to work and move forward with you in this project  
9 in the Maricopa way.

10 Thank you very much.

11 CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Robertson.

12 Thank you for those remarks.

13 Floyd.

14 MR. ROEHRICH: Our next speaker is Mr. Michael  
15 Lomayaktewa. Mr. Lomayaktewa.

16 MR. LOMAYAKTEWA: (Speaking Native language.)

17 Greetings, Board Chairman and members of the State  
18 Transportation Board, Director Halikowski. My name is Michael  
19 Lomayaktewa.

20 First, as a representative of the Hopi Tribe and  
21 as a Hopi tribal member, there are several items I wanted to  
22 bring to the attention of our Board. Our appreciation for the  
23 support of SR-264 and IR-40 intersection lighting project. The  
24 great work of our partners with ADOT and NACOG. This HSIP will  
25 now address the safety need.

1                   Second is the need to address the much needed  
2 improvement on 264 throughout our Hopi land. This is -- this is  
3 legitimate and has numerous safety incidents as a result of  
4 serious injury and fatalities for many years, as data is  
5 continually growing on a daily basis, and we need this. Our  
6 need is legitmate and simple.

7                   Third, the need to address bus turnouts, again,  
8 on 264, as there are seven schools utilizing in transporting of  
9 children and several safety incidents occurring, one just as of  
10 last week, where we had a T-bone coming out from one of the  
11 schools onto 264. And with the plans for 264 improvement, this  
12 will only increase and jeopardize the safety of our children.  
13 So please consider and take to heart these concerns that we  
14 have.

15                   Fourth is the support for Hopi's Kachina Point  
16 Road that we presented at the Rural Transportation Summit  
17 yesterday. Also known as the Loop Road. It's a vital  
18 connection to -- as a route for the northeastern region.  
19 Extremely vital during the -- during the (indiscernible) as a  
20 detour as a result of incidents along State Route 89 closure.

21                   Last is the Hopi Polacca Airport development, the  
22 need and the support for the State Transportation Board is the  
23 only means for emergencies, especially during the worldwide  
24 COVID situation.

25                   So these we bring before the State Transportation

1 Board for consideration and your support. With that, I want to  
2 express our appreciation for your assistance and these concerns  
3 that we bring before you. Thank you.

4 CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Lomayaktewa.  
5 Do appreciate you for bringing up the needs of the communities  
6 in the rural and the remote areas of the state of Arizona.

7 Floyd.

8 MR. ROEHRICH: Mr. Ron Angerame.

9 MR. ANGERAME: Thank you.

10 My name is Ron Angerame. I'm a Maricopa  
11 resident. I appreciate this opportunity this morning to address  
12 the Board. I provided a handout. Hopefully you've all received  
13 and it you take a quick look at it.

14 So I wanted to talk about 347 in the past, the  
15 present and the future, and I went back and I looked at the  
16 original scoping study from 2018, and I noticed that, you know,  
17 at that point in time -- and I quote from this report -- that  
18 the traffic volumes generally exceed the capacity of the  
19 corridor. And that was also true in the evening, that in the  
20 evening, peak (indiscernible) bound traffic volumes also  
21 generally exceeded the capacity of the corridor, and this was in  
22 2018 when Maricopa's population was 47,000.

23 If we move to the present -- I took an  
24 opportunity to use Google maps and sort of really understand,  
25 like, how dense this traffic is. So taking a benchmark at

1 ten o'clock in the morning on a weekday, Google Maps indicated  
2 that the transit time from Maricopa to I-10 was approximately 20  
3 minutes, and this is where Maricopa's population today is  
4 sitting at roughly 62,000.

5           If you look at slide four, and you can see that I  
6 sort of parsed it up a little bit better by time. So you have,  
7 like, 6:00, 6:30, 7:00, 7:30 a.m. And if you look at the  
8 transit times now, the transit times more than double, going  
9 from 20 minutes to 44 minutes to traverse the 17 miles. In the  
10 evening it's almost the same, that the transit time increases  
11 from 20 to 35 minutes. Again, almost doubling.

12           So the future: So Maricopa's population is  
13 expected to exceed 175,000, roughly triple from where we are  
14 today. I also expect traffic impacts to increase as a result of  
15 the remote workers not having to go to the office anymore. More  
16 and more employers today are requiring people to show up in the  
17 office and not just work from home.

18           So if you think about these impacts over time,  
19 it's very easy to rationalize that the commute from Maricopa to  
20 I-10 will exceed an hour. Okay? And you could also envision --  
21 and potentially get even longer than an hour, and also that the  
22 traffic on I-10 now has the possibility of being backed up. So  
23 you have -- you could have a tremendous safety situation where  
24 the right-hand lane is stalled, bumper to bumper, trying to exit  
25 onto 347, and two or three more lanes of traffic is moving at

1 65. I think a very dangerous situation.

2 So to me, this is Maricopa's number one issue,  
3 and we really appreciate your help to get it resolved. Thank  
4 you.

5 CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: Thank you, Ron, for  
6 expressing your concern. Thank you very much.

7 Floyd.

8 MR. ROEHRICH: Mr. Travis Ashbaugh.

9 MR. ASHBAUGH: Good morning, Chairman Thompson,  
10 Board Members. On behalf of the Central Arizona Governments and  
11 the Sun Corridor MPO, we want to thank you for attending the  
12 Rural Summit this past week. It was a -- as you all stated, it  
13 was a great summit, and I was a great part of that, putting it  
14 together and all of us just working together, getting those  
15 panels together. So we appreciate those who attended.

16 There's a lot of thank yous to go around. First,  
17 I want to thank Director Halikowski and his staff that were part  
18 of the panels, gave some really great, lively discussions.

19 I also want to thank directly to Board Member  
20 Stratton for the -- the planning process presentation that you  
21 provided. Got some really great feedback from that.

22 I also want to thank all the legislators that  
23 attended. T.J. Shope was here and Martinez, Representative  
24 Martinez, as part of the discussions. Really appreciate them  
25 attending, because we do need to continue to keep working with

1 our legislators and explaining the needs that we have. And they  
2 know the needs, and I know they're doing their best to do what  
3 we can. So we appreciate all them attending.

4 We're working on the next -- one next year. The  
5 YMPO will be hosting that in Yuma. So we're handing that off to  
6 them, and we will be gladly (sic) to help them, so thank you.

7 CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: Thank you, Travis, for your  
8 comments.

9 Floyd.

10 MR. ROEHRICH: Our next speaker is Ms. Tena  
11 Dugan.

12 MS. DUGAN: Good morning. Welcome to Maricopa.  
13 We're so glad that you're here. My name is Tena Dugan. I'm a  
14 native Arizonan. I've traveled most every road in this state.  
15 I'm a former deputy sheriff in Maricopa County, and I worked  
16 search and rescue while I was there. So I got to see things  
17 from the air and the ground.

18 In 1996, our family moved their farming operation  
19 to Stanfield, Arizona, to get away from growth. It was a great  
20 move. Actually, we love it here. At that time, Maricopa Road  
21 was one lane each direction.

22 I can't tell you how much I appreciate every one  
23 of our elected officials keeping the 347 on your radar. As  
24 someone who's seen it go from one lane each direction with only  
25 two traffic lights that you could hit green on most every day,

1 to I believe it's 14 traffic lights now, and many, many awful,  
2 awful accidents that we've seen, I can't tell you how important  
3 this is.

4           When our last proposition for raising the sales  
5 tax passed, I was appointed by then Mayor Price to be on the  
6 Citizens Oversight Committee for that transportation tax. We  
7 were a very excited committee, and we were shut down. We know  
8 how important it is, not only for all of the businesses, all of  
9 our citizens, but for future growth and for transportation.

10           My son, who has just turned 21, got his CDL in  
11 2000--and -- when COVID hit, they were fast-tracking CDL drivers.  
12 He quit college at NAU and became an over-the-road driver. At  
13 age 19, he bought his first house in Arizona City, and right now  
14 he's in Longmont, Colorado, hauling cows, because he can go  
15 interstate now as of last Sunday.

16           So for our family, transportation's very  
17 important, and the 347 itself, you've heard everything. I can't  
18 really reiterate that. The only thing I would challenge you to  
19 do is I invite you to come to Maricopa on a Sunday. Stay at  
20 Harrah's Ak-Chin. If you call me, I've give you a tour of  
21 anywhere you want to see in the city. Our Copper Sky  
22 Multigenerational Complex, all of the other things we have to  
23 offer, and I would like you to leave at 7:30 in the morning from  
24 Harrah's Ak-Chin and go northbound. Make it a Monday morning,  
25 because those are the best.

1                   Thank you again for coming. We appreciate you  
2 keeping the 347 at the forefront.

3                   CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: Thank you, Ms. Dugan, for  
4 your service in the law enforcement field and also your  
5 comments. Thank you.

6                   Floyd.

7                   MR. ROEHRICH: Mr. Kee Allen Begay, Junior.  
8 Mr. Begay.

9                   MR. BEGAY: Good morning. (Speaking Native  
10 language.) Good morning. My name is Kee Allen Begay, Junior.  
11 I am the Navajo Nation council delegate from the Navajo Nation.  
12 I came here to express several updated information about the  
13 road condition on the Navajo Nation in the vicinity of Many  
14 Farms, Arizona.

15                   First of all, I just want to say good morning to  
16 the local officials, the mayor and then all the ADOT Board  
17 Members, director, ADOT director and staff and everyone on the  
18 line and everyone listening here.

19                   Just like everyone else that have been expressing  
20 their issues and concerns about public safety, right-of-way  
21 safety, I mean, in all the right-of-way across the state, on the  
22 northeastern part of -- I live -- Many Farms is in the Apache  
23 County. I just wanted to, again, express the appreciation for  
24 our road construction happening between Many Farms and  
25 (indiscernible).

1                   We advocate for a two-lane road -- I mean, a  
2 four-lane road, but it was considered to be only widening of the  
3 shoulder, but with the high traffic in the area, I just continue  
4 to ask if there could be any additional requests or a  
5 consideration to have additional funding for further  
6 construction.

7                   I know that the ADOT board will be holding their  
8 meeting in the month of December in Chinle. Maybe that's a good  
9 time to really view and observe and assess a lot of the roads  
10 that -- the conditions of the road on the -- in the community  
11 that surrounds Many Farms and Chinle, because it's way different  
12 if you drive through, like, from Phoenix to Maricopa right now.  
13 It's more of like I wish we could have this type of road access,  
14 wish we could have this type of road construction infrastructure  
15 on tribal land. But a lot of time it's more of like when and  
16 how could we make it more -- I guess make it visible, the  
17 conditions of roads on the Indian tribal reservation. And for  
18 the -- for us and for me, it's Navajo Nation.

19                   So there's a lot of areas that I wanted to cover  
20 regarding the state right-of-way, and I know the other area that  
21 I -- I know the administration had been proposing to the Navajo  
22 Nation was the term limits of a lot of these agreements between  
23 the state and tribes, where we're being told that not much  
24 funding could be allocated just because of these term limits are  
25 being in place with these new right-of-way. And I have been

1 asking for a meeting between ADOT and NDOT of the Navajo Nation,  
2 and we haven't really made any effort to schedule that meeting.

3           The other area that I like to continue our  
4 request for support is the broadband, smart highway that the  
5 Governor of Arizona has been initiating of all the interstate  
6 across the state of Arizona, and 191 is a state right-of-way  
7 going north from Sanders, Arizona, connecting from I-40. So  
8 this is an opportunity for the Navajo Nation to continue to  
9 expand broadband internet services onto the Navajo Nation. I  
10 think that would be a big help with the ADOT to really help  
11 improve and make right-of-way for this type of construction on  
12 the Navajo Nation.

13           So those are some areas that I really want to  
14 express at today's session, and one last request is that we get  
15 about this high -- we have plenty of rain happening in our area,  
16 which we're thankful for, but, of course, from rain we're  
17 growing a lot of weeds along the road where a lot of animal  
18 comes onto the right-of-way, and we want to know if they could  
19 be able to clear a lot of these weeds that are along the right-  
20 of-way within the community of Many Farms and Chinle.

21           So with that, (speaking Native language).  
22 Appreciate everyone for allowing me to speak, and thank you very  
23 much, and you all have a wonderful day.

24           CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: Thank you, (speaking Native  
25 language), Mr. Begay, for being so consistent in your position

1 and your concern.

2 Floyd.

3 MR. ROEHRICH: Ms. Crystal Figueroa.

4 MS. FIGUEROA: Good morning, Mr. Chairman and  
5 members of the State Transportation Board. My name is Crystal  
6 Figueroa. I'm the Yuma MPO director.

7 I'm here today to thank you for the anticipated  
8 recommended contract award for the -- to move forward with the  
9 phase of US-95, Rifle Range Road to Mohawk Wellton Canal. It's  
10 encouraging to see the progress, and YMPO will continue to seek  
11 grant opportunities to the State Legislature and advocate to the  
12 State Legislature about the widening and about the importance of  
13 widening of US-95, a critical connecting route to the Yuma  
14 Proving Grounds and the I-8 bypass route to I-10.

15 And I'm also here to formally invite you to the  
16 next Arizona Rural Transportation Summit that will be hosted by  
17 YMPO and WACOG, Western Arizona Council of Governments. So  
18 we're looking forward to having you there.

19 Thank you.

20 CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: Thank you, Crystal, for your  
21 comments.

22 Floyd.

23 MR. ROEHRICH: Mr. Barney Bigman.

24 MR. BIGMAN: Good morning, Transportation Board,  
25 Jesse, Chair, and members of the Board, and thank you for coming

1 to the Rural Arizona Summit. It was a great experience and a  
2 lot of good words out there that we heard, a lot of good  
3 projects happening, a lot of support and funding.

4 I represent the San Carlos Apache Tribe. I'm the  
5 deputy director for the Department of Transportation with the  
6 tribe, the San Carlos Apache Tribe nation, and I would like to  
7 thank you, Jesse, (speaking Native language), and members of the  
8 Board, for coming over to the San Carlos Apache Tribe one month  
9 ago and meeting in the session we had, the night before, the  
10 meet and greet. It was a great experience, and we got to meet  
11 you personally. We got to know your family, got to know -- you  
12 got to see the casino and the tribe and the roads there, also,  
13 and we greatly appreciate it.

14 One thing I wanted to talk about was the main  
15 thoroughfare through San Carlos, which is State Route 60 from  
16 Globe to Safford, and we did talk about the many improvements  
17 that is needed out there on the San Carlos Apache Reservation,  
18 especially right in front of the casino area, and we thank you  
19 for your support.

20 Currently, I got a call from ADOT the other day  
21 that the application process is in -- in a process for safety  
22 improvements and lighting, and also, I recently got word that  
23 some road safety assessments are starting to happen because of  
24 your support, and we greatly appreciate it, the San Carlos  
25 Apache Tribe, and also, I'm pretty sure that the surrounding

1 community who use that Route 60. So we will be having some  
2 safety improvements, safety assessments happening in the future.

3 And one thing, also, the support for the airport,  
4 too. And we did get some feedback from ADOT that would be  
5 looking to some funding for improvements to the airport there,  
6 which serves Globe and Safford area.

7 One thing I want to mention was it's -- Apache  
8 tribes and also Arizona tribes have a lot to say, you know, for  
9 constructions and developments in Arizona, and not only in  
10 Arizona, but across the nation, and throughout history, you know  
11 that a lot of major towns, cities and rural areas are built on  
12 Native American lands, you know, especially in Phoenix.

13 You know, you can see all the irrigation canals  
14 there, which were previously inhabitants of the Native American  
15 people, and a lot of -- especially in Globe and Miami area, that  
16 was previously Apache land, and the Apache villages were there  
17 in Globe and Miami area, you know, until we moved to the  
18 reservation. So that's a little bit of history, you know. So  
19 we have a lot to say when our projects happen, you know, because  
20 of the history, you know, and a lot of it --

21 MR. ROEHRICH: Excuse me, Mr. Bigman. That is  
22 your three minutes, please. Could you wrap up your comments?

23 MR. BIGMAN: Okay. And we really appreciate for  
24 your support and coming out, and we would like to see you again,  
25 and thank you. (Speaking Native language.)

1 MR. ROEHRICH: Mr. James Menlove.

2 MR. MENLOVE: Good morning. James Menlove here,  
3 county manager. I would be remiss if I didn't take a moment to  
4 express appreciation to each of you for your sacrifice in what  
5 you do. It's kind of a no-win situation, because you make  
6 difficult choices and that affect many, many lives. So thank  
7 you.

8 Chairman Thompson, I had the opportunity to work  
9 with you for many years. I appreciate your continued public  
10 service, and I appreciate all that you do.

11 Mr. Stratton, thank you for representing Gila  
12 County and all that you have done on our behalf.

13 We appreciate the future working on Lion Springs  
14 Road, Highway 260 in northern Gila County. Significant issue  
15 with lots of safety issues.

16 (Indiscernible), Mr. Stratton, that I know a  
17 project that you worked on for many years that we were having a  
18 groundbreaking on a project in Gila County, Tonto Creek Bridge,  
19 about a \$25 million project that, Mr. Stratton, you worked on  
20 for years, I know, and we appreciate that, and continued  
21 partnership with the state and the federal government.

22 So thank you. Appreciate all you do.

23 CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: Thank you, James.

24 MR. ROEHRICH: Mr. Chairman, we still have two  
25 more speakers who are both online. So we will go now to Council

1 Member William Regner, and I see he has raised his hand. So  
2 would the Webex host please unmute Mr. Regner?

3 Mr. Regner, are you there?

4 MR. REGNER: Yes. Can you hear me?

5 MR. ROEHRICH: Yes, Mr. Regner. We can. Go  
6 ahead --

7 MR. REGNER: Thank you very much.

8 MR. ROEHRICH: -- with your three minutes.

9 MR. REGNER: Thank you very much.

10 My name is Bill Regner. I'm a council member in  
11 the town of Clarkdale. Greetings, Chairman Thompson, Vice  
12 Chairman Gary Knight. Thank you for representing Yavapai  
13 County. Members of the Board, and Director Halikowski.

14 My comments to you today are my own, as time has  
15 not allowed me the opportunity to bring this concern before the  
16 Clarkdale town council on which I serve. This week I have been  
17 in attendance at the Rural Transportation Summit in the city of  
18 Maricopa and had the pleasure to meet and listen to members of  
19 your governing body and representatives of the Arizona  
20 Department of Transportation.

21 The Town of Clarkdale realizes the rare  
22 opportunity that the federal bipartisan infrastructure bill, the  
23 IIJA bill, allows us at this time. We are keenly aware that we  
24 have the opportunity to advance long-needed transportation  
25 projects that have been beyond our reach historically and a

1 challenge both financially and administratively to pursue once  
2 this opportunity passes. In response to this opportunity, we  
3 have taken an all-hands-on-deck approach that includes council  
4 members, key staff members and community volunteers.

5           The Town of Clarkdale became aware of the SMART  
6 Fund possibility through virtual attendance at your meetings  
7 during the past year. We followed its progress through the  
8 budget process this past legislative session. We recognize the  
9 rare opportunity the program affords us to acquire the resources  
10 to both pursue the grant application process and the either  
11 required or the highly recommended matching funds that a town  
12 with a population of approximately 4,500 residents is challenged  
13 to provide.

14           To date we have submitted two planning grant  
15 applications for the same project. The first submitted in April  
16 of this year was for a RAISE grant. The second submitted in  
17 July is for a Bridge Investment Program grant. Unfortunately,  
18 our RAISE grant application was not successful. We are waiting  
19 word on the Bridge grant.

20           Comments by an ADOT spokesman made during the  
21 Rural Transportation Summit provided guidance to those in  
22 attendance regarding the Arizona State Match Advantage For Rural  
23 Transportation, or SMART Fund, application process. That  
24 guidance included a statement that federal infrastructure IIJA  
25 grant programs applications made prior to the October SMART Fund

1 rollout cannot also apply for SMART Fund dollars. If this rule  
2 interpretation is correct, potentially eligible applicants who  
3 are selected to receive funding may not be able to provide the  
4 required matches. It is my sincere hope that your board will  
5 revisit and clarify the guideline regarding grant applications  
6 submitted prior to the SMART Fund rollout and allow qualifying  
7 municipalities and counties with applications submitted prior to  
8 the SMART application start date to apply for funding according  
9 to the Arizona State Match Fund For Rural Transportation, or  
10 SMART Fund, criteria when the application process commences.

11 Thank you very much for all your hard work and  
12 dedication to the state of Arizona, and that concludes my  
13 comments.

14 CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: Thank you, Bill.

15 Floyd, we're down to our last --

16 MR. ROEHRICH: Our last request to speak is  
17 Ms. Jennifer Thompson.

18 Ms. Thompson, please raise your hand.

19 MS. THOMPSON: Can you hear --

20 MR. ROEHRICH: Ms. Thompson, are you there?

21 MS. THOMPSON: Yes. Can you hear me?

22 MR. ROEHRICH: Yes, we can. Please go ahead.

23 MS. THOMPSON: Great.

24 All right. I've been here several times before.  
25 I'm the controller and townsite utilities manager for Freeport-

1 McMoRan in Bagdad. You know, it's great to see all the passion  
2 there from the folks in Maricopa. We can relate to that here in  
3 Bagdad with our roadway needs. So congratulations on getting so  
4 many of you there to attend the meeting. That's great.

5 Good morning, Chairman Thompson and members of  
6 the Board. You know, I'm here today to ask for your continued  
7 support of the efforts. Freeport and ADOT are undertaking to  
8 collaboratively develop improvements to State Route 97.

9 Since the last board meeting, two JPAs of ADOT's  
10 have been signed: One for the State Route 97 grant work, and  
11 the other for road construction on State Route 97. So we're  
12 making good progress there.

13 Just as a reminder, Freeport Bagdad currently  
14 ships copper concentrate via State Route 97 and US-93 to our  
15 smelter in Miami, Arizona, at a rate of about 100 trips per day,  
16 and approximately another 100 commercial trucks deliver  
17 (indiscernible) to our facility per day.

18 In an effort to provide the resources necessary  
19 to meet domestic and global decarbonization goals, we're  
20 currently conducting a feasibility study to potentially expand  
21 our Bagdad operations starting in 2024. This potential  
22 expansion would double the current production, bringing us  
23 to 400 trucks per day for copper and commercial trucks, and  
24 add 800 employees, plus 150 contractors. So that not only  
25 includes the employees, but the families that would live here as

1 well using the State Route 97.

2 The Legislature has recognized the importance of  
3 the improvements to this corridor and Freeport's offer of  
4 \$10 million towards this effort, and they have provided  
5 10 million from the State General Fund to ADOT for the purpose  
6 of pursuing a federal grant for this project.

7 In closing, thank you so much, Director  
8 Halikowski and the ADOT team. As someone said before, you have  
9 a thankless job. We truly appreciate the efforts here. Also,  
10 director administrator Brazich (phonetic) and the Northwest  
11 District staff for their continued partnership and efforts and  
12 efforts on this project.

13 Thank you, Mr. Chairman and Board for -- members  
14 of the Board for giving us another opportunity to speak. Hope  
15 you all have a great weekend.

16 CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: Thank you, Mrs. Thompson.  
17 Your comment on working together, I think that is huge. We  
18 continue to say that. So every day that is good.

19 So Floyd.

20 MR. ROEHRICH: Mr. Chairman, those are all the  
21 requests to speak. And I just got cut off, so my time's up.

22 CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: Okay. Let me turn this over  
23 to Steve.

24 MR. STRATTON: Thank you, Jesse. I'd like to  
25 clarify one of my earlier statements according to the comments

1 from some of the board members that may have been  
2 misinterpreted. I have not resigned, nor have I been replaced  
3 at this point, and I do expect to see you next month at this  
4 time. So I just wanted to clarify that.

5 Also, I'd like to thank Christian. I didn't see  
6 you when we first got here. I don't feel like any meeting would  
7 be complete without our pep talk from you, so thank you.

8 CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: You know, as we have said  
9 many times, every comment that is being made by you is  
10 considered and is acknowledged. Our administrators, John  
11 Halikowski, Floyd, they have now had the staff that's put in  
12 place to look at those comments, and I know for sure that  
13 they're doing that, because I have seen some of the views coming  
14 from you, and they're really -- those issues are quite  
15 considerate.

16 So I continue to ask you -- this is what Mayor  
17 Price said. You've got to be here. You've got to keep on  
18 pushing, and that's what we're all saying. That's the only way  
19 that we'll get these projects moving, talking about it, letting  
20 everybody know that we need this.

21 So again, thank you for all those comments that  
22 were made in person as well as those online. I do appreciate  
23 our board members that are online as well and all of us up here.

24 So with that, we can continue on to the next  
25 item. That's Item 1, director's report.

1 Mr. Halikowski.

2 DIRECTOR HALIKOWSKI: Well, thank you  
3 Mr. Chairman, and thank you for those kind words. And I would  
4 say to Board Member Stratton, the reports of your demise, sir,  
5 are premature. Long live the King.

6 So turning to a more serious note, many of you in  
7 the audience have called out, you know, myself by name, but the  
8 credit really goes to the ADOT team and the fine people, great,  
9 dedicated professionals that I have the privilege to work with.  
10 So I'm proud to be able to serve them, so thank you.

11 Mayor, it was great to meet you yesterday. I  
12 think we met prior to that when we were talking about 347 and  
13 283. So it's good to see you again and be here. The reason  
14 Mayor Price and I weren't at your breakfast this morning, we  
15 were over at Pinal Partnership and, you know, wish you all the  
16 luck with Prop 469.

17 So -- but what was pointed out over there is how  
18 important transportation is and infrastructure is. First of  
19 all, for ADOT's true north, which is that everyone's loved ones  
20 get home safely every night. But second, also, that our quality  
21 of life, our economy, jobs for our people, these are all  
22 critical things that we need to address.

23 There's been much said about 347 today,  
24 Mr. Chairman, and I have a special tie to this area. In 1989,  
25 the State of Arizona certified me as a cottonseed sampler, and I

1 was working for a commodities company at that time, one of the  
2 jobs I had getting out of school. And I drove through Maricopa  
3 every day in 1990 and all the way to Stanfield to pick up  
4 cottonseed samples to take to the lab. You're right. Back then  
5 it was a two-lane road, and it was open range, and you were  
6 lucky to see a couple of cars pass you on the way here.

7 I watched as the development came in, and many,  
8 many houses and businesses came in over the years, but the  
9 investment in the infrastructure, like much around the state,  
10 still needs to catch up with that. And so that has been the  
11 balance we've been trying to achieve, because development, new  
12 business, people can come in often much faster than the  
13 infrastructure because of all the issues we have to deal with  
14 can get built. So I've heard your comments loud and clear and  
15 want to thank you for bringing those forward.

16 And, Mayor, I just want to say one more thing.  
17 It's good to have you on board, because unlike Mayor Price, I  
18 can tell that you have vision and, you know...

19 MR. ROEHRICH: He speaks at a rate we can  
20 understand.

21 DIRECTOR HALIKOWSKI: That's right.

22 MR. ROEHRICH: Mayor Price should, you know,  
23 speed up his delivery a little bit. You're taking too long.

24 DIRECTOR HALIKOWSKI: But the other thing,  
25 Mr. Chair, I just want to thank everybody in here as we did at

1 the partnership meeting for their support of I-10. When I first  
2 started in 2009 as director, Floyd and I were driving up from  
3 Tucson. I said, why can't we just widen this into the middle?  
4 Well, that started a long education and a long process, but we  
5 are here today.

6 The Legislature gave us 400 million. We have  
7 another 300-and-roughly-80 million in a Mega grant that we hope  
8 to hear by the end of October from the federal government on,  
9 but it's been a long time coming to get this facility widened.

10 I want to thank everybody here, our partners at  
11 the Maricopa Association of Governments who've been critical to  
12 working on this with us, and the Gila River Indian Community,  
13 who have just been outstanding partners in working on the plans  
14 and working it through their government to get approved.

15 So our third public hearing will be in Sacaton  
16 coming up soon, and we are all well on the way. So I want to  
17 thank everyone for their support on that.

18 I will charge Mr. Patane, if you will, talk with  
19 our tribal liaisons to get a meeting set up between ADOT and  
20 NDOT as requested so that we can sit down with them.

21 On the broadband front, Mr. Chairman, we're  
22 continuing to work with the Commerce Authority. As you know,  
23 they are the business procurement end, as we look for an  
24 operator, manager and caretaker of that system. An RFP will be  
25 going out here probably within the next week for the I-17 and

1 I-19 construction, which should start once that RFP's approved  
2 around the first of the year.

3 So as I listen to the comments on broadband  
4 on 191, ADOT is working very hard to get the spine of broadband  
5 set up along the state highway system. We're currently working  
6 on I-40 to go west into California and have been in discussions  
7 with Navajo government on what we might be doing on I-40 east in  
8 the future.

9 So another question came up about 11. I will  
10 just say that we got 25 million from the State Legislature this  
11 year for the Tier 2 study on I-11, but I don't want to leave out  
12 the North-South Freeway. The Legislature also provided money  
13 for that Tier 2 study so that we can begin the environmental  
14 work to get that down to a 500-foot corridor, because that is  
15 also much needed construction in this region, because you have  
16 business and your economy is just booming in the area.

17 So we will be starting the Tier 2 on the I-11  
18 pretty soon, and that will be the segment, because as you know,  
19 I-11's divided up into seven segments of independent utility,  
20 but the segment between Phoenix and Wickenburg will likely be  
21 our first focus.

22 There probably will be some other things that  
23 Katy might bring up in her legislative report, but again, thank  
24 you, Mayor, and thank you to the community for your comments,  
25 your patience and your continuing to work with us. Our promise

1 to you is to respect and to continue to listen and work with you  
2 to accomplish what your goals are. Thank you.

3 CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: Any member have a question  
4 for John?

5 Proceed, Ted.

6 MR. MAXWELL: Mr. Chair, I appreciate the  
7 Director's comments on the Tier 2 for I-11 and the North-South  
8 Corridor, but I think he left one out.

9 DIRECTOR HALIKOWSKI: Oh, that is true,  
10 Mr. Chairman. And forgive me, Board Member Maxwell. I probably  
11 left out the most important one, which is the Sonoran Corridor.  
12 And thank you, Board Member Maxwell and Daniels. I know their  
13 work with policymakers to get the money for the Tier 2 certainly  
14 moved that process along.

15 MR. MAXWELL: Thank you, Mr. Director, for  
16 pointing out the Sonoran Corridor's role in there, too.

17 And I really do appreciate ADOT, though,  
18 immediately following up, and I think getting those three  
19 Tier 2s done for critical corridors throughout the state is  
20 going to give us an opportunity both in this time of more  
21 federal funding coming towards infrastructure, but also too  
22 often the way things are going politically right now where they  
23 want shovel ready projects to go with those Tier 2s in place, I  
24 think it improves our chance of obtaining support, whether it's  
25 matching or in some cases maybe holistically federally funded

1 will be approved. So I appreciate you following it up quickly.

2 DIRECTOR HALIKOWSKI: So, Mr. Chairman, I just  
3 want to remind everyone that we can complete the study, but we  
4 will not get final signoff by the federal government to begin  
5 construction until we can reasonably assure them that the funds  
6 are available for whatever segment we're building. So while  
7 we're working to obtain funds, we want to continue the study to  
8 get ready, as Board Member Maxwell put out or put forth, so that  
9 we can begin construction as soon as we obtain the funding.

10 Thank you.

11 CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: Any other questions from the  
12 board members? There being none.

13 Any further additional comments?

14 MR. ROEHRICH: Is there a legislative update,  
15 Ms. Proctor? I would ask.

16 DIRECTOR HALIKOWSKI: She's very eager to speak.

17 CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: Yeah, I thought I seen -- I  
18 thought I saw her walking out, and I was going to send Mark  
19 after her and say, wait a minute. Get her back.

20 MS. PROCTOR: Mr. Chairman, she tried. She  
21 tried.

22 Mr. Chairman and members, thank you so much for  
23 having me today.

24 On the state side, our date to have all of our  
25 legislation implemented is September 24th. So we're continuing

1 to work towards that date right now on various fronts within the  
2 agency.

3           Otherwise, you know, we do have the general  
4 election around the corner. We are expecting significant  
5 turnover in the Legislature this year, as you may have heard.  
6 So we will be working to do outreach with our new legislators as  
7 they come into office in the upcoming months.

8           On the federal side, we are waiting for that  
9 federal fiscal year '23 budget. As you're well aware, the  
10 fiscal year is going to end on the 30th of September, and we  
11 will probably have a continuing resolution. It's going to come  
12 pretty close to that 30th date, unfortunately. It looks like  
13 there's a few other issues that they're still working through.  
14 So when that happens, we'll have a continuing resolution in  
15 place so that we still have our federal funding moving forward.  
16 I think what we're hearing right now is we'll probably have a  
17 fiscal year '23 budget in December, after the midterm election,  
18 and that's kind of what we're expecting right now.

19           I'll be happy to keep you guys updated on that if  
20 anything else comes up, and that is my report today. I'll be  
21 happy to answer any questions.

22           CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: Any questions? Ted?

23           MR. MAXWELL: Thank you, Mr. Chair. You probably  
24 figured I was going to have a comment on this one.

25           So Katy, appreciate the update, and what I'd ask

1 is as you go in to start educating those new legislators --  
2 because you're right, it's going to be a significant amount of  
3 turnover -- there are several of the Board that would love to  
4 come along and just help on the education piece, not the  
5 advocacy piece. So we'll keep the Director, you know, in a good  
6 shape on that front, but we'd love to make sure they understand  
7 the importance of infrastructure and really to give them the  
8 feedback that we've been getting from throughout the state on  
9 the need for continued and further investment in the roads in  
10 our regions.

11 MS. PROCTOR: Mr. Chair and Board Member Maxwell,  
12 thank you. I will keep that in mind.

13 CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: Any other questions?

14 There will be certain information that will be  
15 surrounding some of the legislative (indiscernible) that have  
16 passed and I'm sure working on the administration on it, see how  
17 can maybe fix some of those or how we can try to approach to  
18 make some correction on it, but we'll get back with you on that.

19 MS. PROCTOR: Yes, sir.

20 CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: Okay. Thank you very much.  
21 If there's no other -- is there a last minute item?

22 There being none, we will now move on to Item 2,  
23 district engineer's report. And I see there's no report this  
24 month. What does that mean?

25 MR. ROEHRICH: Mr. Chairman, this is the second

1 meeting in this district, and so you've gotten a report just a  
2 couple ago. So there was nothing to update it. But next month  
3 you'll be in the Northwest District, and you'll get an update  
4 from that district.

5 CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: With that, we will now move  
6 on to Item 3, consent agenda. Board members, (indiscernible)  
7 Steve.

8 MR. STRATTON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

9 I don't have an item to remove, but I would like  
10 to ask a couple questions about Item 3B. I'll direct that to  
11 Paul, I believe. This is requesting more easement for the Queen  
12 Creek Bridge. I'd like to know why and what direction we're  
13 looking for the easement.

14 MR. PATANE: Mr. Chair, Board Member Stratton,  
15 good morning. The necessary easement is a construction  
16 easement. Okay? So they're temporary in nature, and so it's  
17 just for the duration of the construction project.

18 MR. STRATTON: Will it --

19 MR. ROEHRICH: Mr. Chairman, Mr. Stratton, it's  
20 necessary because during construction they're going to shift  
21 traffic. So they're getting some additional land to shift  
22 traffic over so they can move traffic around, get in there and  
23 construct the bridge, but this has all already been coordinated.  
24 It's part of the process. We're just making the final  
25 agreement. The landowners have already agreed to the agreement.

1 It's not delaying the project. It's just necessary for a means  
2 of traffic during construction.

3 MR. STRATTON: That would have been my next  
4 question. Okay.

5 MR. PATANE: Yeah. We obtained it from Freeport  
6 at no cost, the construction easement, so...

7 MR. STRATTON: And so we're still on schedule for  
8 January advertisement --

9 MR. PATANE: Yes, sir.

10 MR. STRATTON: -- was the last update I had?

11 I did hear yesterday from council people from  
12 Superior their concern about the walkers that use the old trail  
13 that people walk every day, the old road underneath, and I've --  
14 as I explained to them, there's no way around it. We have to  
15 have -- you know, block that off for safety reasons, but I think  
16 we just need to communicate with the town of Superior, and I'm  
17 sure you will, but I wanted to bring it to your attention.

18 MR. PATANE: Yes. We can ensure that there's the  
19 appropriate public outreach, because I experienced the same  
20 concern when we did a bridge in Quartzsite and I-10 where  
21 there's ATVs and pedestrians, and unfortunately, you just have  
22 to block it off and there's no access during the construction  
23 for their safety.

24 MR. STRATTON: Thank you. Thank you,  
25 Mr. Chairman. That's all.

1                   CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: Okay. We are now on the --  
2 approving the consent agenda. Is there any other items that the  
3 board members wish to remove from consent agenda?

4                   There being none, I'd like to ask for a motion to  
5 approve the consent agenda.

6                   MR. SEARLE: Make a motion to approve the consent  
7 agenda.

8                   MR. STRATTON: Second.

9                   CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: There's the motion by Board  
10 Member Richard, second by Board Member Stratton. Any  
11 discussion?

12                   All in favor say aye.

13                   BOARD MEMBERS: Aye.

14                   CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: Floyd.

15                   MR. ROEHRICH: Online we're going to ask for  
16 Board Member Meck.

17                   MR. MECK: Aye.

18                   MR. ROEHRICH: And that's all the online members,  
19 Mr. Chairman.

20                   CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: Thank you. Motion is  
21 approved.

22                   We will now move on to the financial report with  
23 Kristine Ward. This is Agenda Item 4, for information and  
24 discussion only.

25                   Kristine.

1 MS. WARD: Good morning, Board Members. Good  
2 morning, Mr. Chairman.

3 If we could start with the first slide, Rhett.

4 This will be a very brief report. We're only a  
5 couple of months into the fiscal year, but we'll start out with  
6 our normal Highway User User Fund report, revenue fund.

7 So as you're aware -- are aware, HURF is the  
8 State's primary fund source to fund transportation, and the  
9 State Highway Fund is a beneficiary of a portion of the HURF  
10 revenues. So as goes HURF, so goes the State Highway Fund. So  
11 year to date -- oh, are you able to see the chart? I'm seeing a  
12 lot of things moving around on my screen. Excuse me. Okay.  
13 Sorry. We're having some the technical issues over here. So  
14 year to date, HURF revenues are about 3.2 percent behind  
15 forecast. That means about \$8.8 million. So we're not talking  
16 large sums. The impact of that on the state highway is about  
17 3.3 million. We don't have any concerns at this point about an  
18 impact to the program.

19 If we could go on to the next slide, Rhett.

20 This gives you the individual breakdown of the  
21 revenue categories. We did see some significant declines in  
22 both gas and use, but this is large -- and we projected some  
23 declines as well in these categories, just because we had had  
24 such tremendous growth at the end of the last year. So when  
25 you're comparing the two month -- you know, year over year, we

1 have just had tremendous double-digit growth. So we anticipated  
2 that we would see some declines, but they were a little steeper  
3 than expected.

4 If you can go to the next slide, Rhett. Thank  
5 you very much.

6 There's not much to report on the Regional Area  
7 Road Fund, RARF. We are dead on forecast, so we'll just move  
8 right on.

9 If we could go to the next slide.

10 This will provide you the individual categories  
11 year to date. For the month of July, we are 11.1 percent over  
12 last year. We've seen 11.1 percent growth over last year. If  
13 you'll recall, last year we -- end of last year in total, we had  
14 tremendous growth, pushing around 18 percent. So this is --  
15 this is a -- this is very strong growth for the -- for the fund.

16 With regards to the next slide, if I could,  
17 Rhett, I do not have any additional updates on the fed aid  
18 program or the debt program.

19 So that concludes my remarks, and if you have any  
20 questions, I'd be happy to answer them.

21 CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: Thank you, Kristine.

22 Does any member have any question for Kristine?

23 MR. KNIGHT: Mr. Chair.

24 CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: Gary.

25 MR. KNIGHT: Kristine, would you -- would you say

1 that probably the reason for the decline in HURF and the decline  
2 in the gas tax is because of the high price of fuel we're seeing  
3 less travel?

4 MS. WARD: That's a great question, Mr. Knight.  
5 There's always a tremendous debate as to whether -- and I won't  
6 get too deep in this, but how elastic gas prices are. So how  
7 much do consumers change their behavior based on the price of  
8 the product? And I think we are probably seeing some change of  
9 behavior because those prices were so -- have been so  
10 tremendously high.

11 Now, you'll see in your report, sir, for this  
12 month that those gas prices have dropped a significant amount.  
13 I believe it was -- you know, we're pushing almost a dollar --  
14 but you'll be able to see the average price across the state  
15 drop in those reports. Average price drop's been about 50  
16 percent. So we would anticipate that that would start to come  
17 back.

18 Does that answer your question, sir?

19 MR. KNIGHT: Yes. Thank you. Thank you,  
20 Kristine.

21 MS. WARD: Thank you, sir.

22 CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: Does any other member have  
23 any questions?

24 Okay. Thanks, Kristine. Appreciate your  
25 reporting.

1 MS. WARD: Thank you, sir.

2 CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: We will now move on to Agenda  
3 Item 5 with Paul Patane.

4 Paul.

5 MR. PATANE: Thank you, Mr. Chair, Chairman  
6 Thompson, Board Members. Good morning. I'm Paul Patane with  
7 the Multimodal Planning Division.

8 So this month's update will focus on the tribal  
9 transportation update, just a quick discussion on the Long-Range  
10 Transportation Plan and where we're at, an update on the SR-88  
11 Apache Trail, and a little discussion on the planning to  
12 programming, along with a brief discussion on the upcoming  
13 October 6th Board study session.

14 So a current update on the tribal transportation  
15 with the Hopi Tribe. We've come to anticipate a scheduled  
16 workshop in October. We agreed upon later in the month in  
17 October, and some of the items that we'll be focusing on are our  
18 outreach associated with the long-range plans and grant  
19 opportunities on the crash collection -- crash data collection  
20 and also the statewide improvement program, just giving them  
21 guidance and answering -- and answering any questions that they  
22 may have.

23 Next slide, please.

24 And so we continue our communication and efforts  
25 with the Navajo Nation, the various chapters. A lot of the

1 concerns are operational issues related to bus pullouts,  
2 turnouts and roadway conditions and maintenance. So we just  
3 partnered with them. We work with our district -- our district  
4 administrators, district engineers to ensure that where the  
5 concerns are, we tried to address them as appropriate.

6           Then on the Arizona statewide rest area study,  
7 we're going to have a meeting with the Gila River Indian  
8 Community. We have some concerns related to the Sacaton rest  
9 area. We have concerns on the numerous truck parking activities  
10 that are happening there, and we'll do -- we had outreach last  
11 month with the San Carlos Tribe related to the rest area.

12           Next slide, please.

13           We had staff attend the National Transportation  
14 in Indian Country Conference. The conference provided access to  
15 relevant training and opportunity for transportation officials  
16 to engage with the federal officials and their tribal  
17 transportation peers regarding issues and challenges.

18           (Inaudible) representation from 14 Arizona tribes  
19 who had the opportunity to meet one on one with FHWA and BIA  
20 officials to discuss some of the challenges associated with  
21 grant applications and the match requirements associated with  
22 those grants.

23           Next slide, please.

24           So an update on our long-range plan. It's moving  
25 quite along. Again, it's a requirement that the Board approve a

1 long-range plan. It's required every five years, and currently  
2 we're in the vision stakeholder process, doing some outreach  
3 with -- and talking with MAG and PAG. They're -- we're working  
4 on our public involvement, finalizing of that plan, and also  
5 there's been -- there's been getting some initial long-range  
6 plan (indiscernible) to kind of get the project going in the  
7 right direction.

8                   Next slide, please.

9                   So some of the outreach status to date. We sent  
10 out a stakeholder assessment survey to the COGs, MPOs, the TMAs  
11 and the tribal partners. Our public survey website will be live  
12 mid-October. There's -- our tribal consultation sessions have  
13 begun, and it will go through November -- later this -- will go  
14 through November. Then we have in-person public meetings will  
15 be scheduled for February/March of next year, mainly in the --  
16 probably the Flagstaff, Phoenix and the Tucson areas, and we  
17 also will have a virtual statewide meeting as well.

18                   Just real quick on this update on the planning to  
19 programming process. Please keep in mind this is an important  
20 process, because this is how we identify projects to come in the  
21 new fifth year of the program every year, and so our workshops  
22 were -- are complete. We met with all seven districts. So from  
23 there we'll generate a final P2P list. It will be submitted to  
24 ADOT leadership and programming, and we'll begin to consider  
25 projects that we'll bring to the Board later in the development

1 of the new five-year program for consideration.

2 Okay. Next slide, please.

3 Quick update on the SR-88 Apache Trail. This is  
4 the Fish Creek Hill overlook, the rest area to Apache Lake  
5 Marina Road study. It's a seven-mile segment.

6 Next slide, please.

7 The project scope, it's the development and  
8 recommendations to stabilize the slopes necessary to achieve  
9 resilience against similar type weather events. We got -- part  
10 of the process will be environmental study, and so we'll have to  
11 identify those requirements necessary, depending on the type of  
12 construction that's recommended for stabilization.

13 So the schedule, the deliverables at the end of  
14 the day will be in a design concept report with recommendations  
15 for construction. We also will have an environmental document,  
16 and this project here will require us to, you know, extend our  
17 partnerships and work closely with the U.S. Forest Service,  
18 Central Federal Lands, FHWA and our -- and our MAG partners. We  
19 do have a consultant on board, and we're currently negotiating  
20 the fee associated with the development of these project  
21 documents. And our estimated completion for these two reports  
22 would be summer of 2023.

23 So at this -- our next --

24 CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: Paul.

25 MR. PATANE: Yes, sir.

1                   CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: Richard would like to ask a  
2 question.

3                   Go ahead, Richard.

4                   MR. SEARLE: A question on this Apache Trail  
5 issue. Have we been -- just out of curiosity, we continue to  
6 get emails on a daily basis on this segment of road. Do we have  
7 a tally of how many emails we've received on this?

8                   MR. ROEHRICH: Mr. Chairman, Board Member Searle,  
9 we've gotten 2,891.

10                  MR. SEARLE: 2,891. Are we responding to these  
11 emails at all? Most of them are form emails, but are we doing  
12 any type of a response?

13                  MR. ROEHRICH: Mr. Chairman, Mr. Searle, we do  
14 not respond to every one of them, but what we do is we respond  
15 to the group that originated it. They are part of the  
16 information and public outreach problem -- or program on this  
17 project, and so we are coordinating with that group.

18                  MR. SEARLE: All right. Thank you.

19                  DIRECTOR HALIKOWSKI: Yeah. And, Mr. Chairman,  
20 if I might add, I mean, we've been in discussion with numerous  
21 legislators about the issue, also. So, you know, they've  
22 recently, I think in the last session, appropriated 700,000 of  
23 study money, and I think when we wrap that up, we'll have a  
24 better idea of, you know, what it is we're going to be asking  
25 for to rebuild that roadway and what it's going to look like.

1 MR. STRATTON: Mr. Chairman.

2 CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: Steve.

3 MR. STRATTON: Have we reached out to the owner  
4 of the marina? I suspect that that's the originator of this  
5 group, new owner, and at least update them.

6 DIRECTOR HALIKOWSKI: Yeah. Yeah. I don't  
7 recall specifically, but I know I've gotten numerous letters  
8 from people, and we have responded. I'll check with our comms  
9 department. They normally would reach out to affected  
10 businesses in the area.

11 MR. STRATTON: Thank you.

12 CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: Sure. We'll report back to  
13 the Board, Mr. Chairman, on that question.

14 CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: Thank you, John.

15 I think that's one concern that Floyd and I, we  
16 had discussion on, is reporting back, you know, to the people  
17 that are concerned, and I'm glad you're doing that as much as  
18 you can to get that information back out today.

19 So Paul.

20 MR. PATANE: Yes, Mr. Chair. Thank you.

21 So as far as the October 6th Transportation Board  
22 study session, these are the items we're requesting to bring  
23 forward for detailed discussion and potentially future action  
24 from the Board. The first is the Arizona SMART Fund. We plan  
25 to get to you the application, the guidelines and the draft.

1 These are all draft documents. It would be the application, the  
2 guidelines and the draft transportation board policy as required  
3 to implement this program. So we would like to have a detailed  
4 discussion and your feedback on these draft documents with the  
5 anticipation of taking these to the Board for approval in  
6 October.

7 MR. STRATTON: Chairman.

8 CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: Steve.

9 MR. STRATTON: Thank you, Jesse.

10 Paul, I think we have all been in receipt of an  
11 email from the Arizona Truckers Association and asking for some  
12 very specific actions, and I don't know if the rest of the Board  
13 has it. I do not have enough information to make an educated  
14 decision on where we should be on this. I know that we --  
15 during COVID we spent a great deal on money on I-40 for parking,  
16 and I'm not sure where we are at on that subject, but prior to  
17 the study session, can we receive some more information on what  
18 the draft plan is for the parking and for the freight system?

19 MR. PATANE: Yes. As far as the freight plan at  
20 the Board study session, we want to present to you the draft  
21 freight plan along with the list of projects that we are  
22 recommending for use a freight funding. The freight committee,  
23 the Freight Advisory Committee, which is a required committee,  
24 has recommended \$50 million be used for truck parking and the  
25 rest be used for various projects within -- along the state

1 highway system. And so these are things that we hope to have  
2 detailed discussion on.

3 As far as the freight, I know that the trucking  
4 association has expressed heavily their concerns on the need for  
5 freight parking. We completed a freight parking study, I  
6 believe, in 2019, and with some recommendations both on the  
7 private sector and along the state roadway system.

8 So these are discussions that we'd like to have  
9 and potentially move forward with a truck parking plan, focusing  
10 just on the state highway system at this time. And so these are  
11 things that are need -- under development, because, you know, to  
12 spend \$50 million but you've got to strategically place those  
13 dollars in appropriate locations, so...

14 MR. STRATTON: Thank you.

15 MR. PATANE: Then...

16 MR. KNIGHT: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

17 You can see me madly pushing the button over  
18 here. It looked like Floyd was about to comment, so let me --  
19 I've got two issues. One's on this trucking plan, some of the  
20 correspondence we've had. As part of that study session, if you  
21 can bring some recommendations to us about that plan, if you  
22 could outline this, one of their concerns is that there was  
23 funding that came down for trucking, and they believe that we  
24 may have used money that was already appropriated through the  
25 ADOT system for the funding, and they're -- we'd like to see

1 where the expenditures went, I guess, and that way that may be  
2 something more, Director, for yourself or Floyd to address here  
3 in the future, but I think that would help us on the trucking  
4 issue and being able to either answer or understand as --

5 MR. ROEHRICH: Well, Mr. Chairman, Board Members,  
6 that's what I was going to say is we've already been meeting  
7 with -- Paul and his people have already been meeting with  
8 Mr. Bradley and other members of his association, as well as  
9 other stakeholders. Not just his association. We obviously  
10 have a lot of other stakeholders, some he represents, some he  
11 does not. So we're going to continue to have those  
12 conversations.

13 The draft report and the draft project listings  
14 like that, I'll work with Paul. If we can get those submitted  
15 to you before the study session so you can at least overview it.  
16 If not, as they're preparing it and we're presenting it, we'll  
17 provide you whatever information that we have available at the  
18 time, but we will have those discussions to show where we've  
19 been, what we're doing now and where we're going, I think, is  
20 probably the basis of your update on the state freight plan.

21 MR. PATANE: Yes. Mr. Chair, Board Members, see,  
22 it's important that we do move forward on the freight plan,  
23 because it is a requirement to use those funds, and the freight  
24 plan can be amended, if we make changes in the years to come,  
25 where the funding goes, but we need -- we do need to have a plan

1 submitted to FHWA for the approval. We're -- the plan is to  
2 submit them a draft plan later this month. We take the draft  
3 plan to the October Board study session. We have a detailed  
4 discussion, get feedback. Then we can move forward with the  
5 final plan later this year.

6 MR. KNIGHT: Mr. Chair, one more question.

7 CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: (Indiscernible.)

8 MR. MAXWELL: I appreciate that we're going to be  
9 discussing the Arizona SMART Fund. I did talk to Council Member  
10 Ridner (phonetic) yesterday at the Summit about their concern.  
11 At the Holbrook board meeting we had, we thought that -- we  
12 believed that even for grants had been put in before the funds  
13 became available, and on the date that they became after the  
14 State Legislature -- you know, the requirements, and now it  
15 sounds like we may not have that.

16 So it's really important that we do get to a  
17 solution of what the process, the procedures are going to be and  
18 when the funds are available, because we've been fairly  
19 successful so far in Arizona with some the grants under the  
20 IIJA, but most of those have been from the larger communities  
21 who have either regional or municipality funding to act as those  
22 matching funds.

23 Obviously the rural communities, the smaller  
24 areas, this is kind of a lifeline for them, and we've got to  
25 make sure that we use those -- our funds to support those who

1 don't have the current funding for the possible or the matching  
2 side of it. That would improve rural applicants.

3           So appreciate the conversation, and we really do  
4 need to make sure we get that clarified and get that information  
5 out to them, because if some of them -- you know, we encourage  
6 them to prep the grants, because we know they're competitive,  
7 and if you're not ready when they open up the application  
8 process, you couldn't miss out on the opportunity, but we -- if  
9 there's something that would be of benefit to those communities  
10 to delay actually submitting the grant in order to have possible  
11 matching funds from the SMART funds, we just need to get that  
12 information to them.

13           MR. PATANE: Yes, sir.

14           CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: I do have one comment. When  
15 you talk about freight, Sanders port of entry comes to mind, and  
16 the other concern is that the SMART program, it's meant for  
17 municipalities and cities. Does that -- is that interpretation,  
18 does that include tribal government as well? That's the only  
19 question that we need to (indiscernible).

20           MR. PATANE: Steve, they are eligible -- the  
21 counties are eligible for the SMART Fund, and so the tribal  
22 entities will have to work with the counties on submitting their  
23 applications.

24           CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: Thank you, Paul.

25           MR. PATANE: Yes.

1 CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: Any other questions?

2 Thank you, Paul.

3 MR. PATANE: Yes, Mr. Chair.

4 CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: Maybe we can move into  
5 Item 6, PPAC items. That's you again, Paul. Priority Planning  
6 Advisory Committee recommendations.

7 MR. PATANE: Yes. Thank you, Mr. Chair, Board  
8 Members.

9 For your consideration, changes to the  
10 FY 2023-2027 Statewide Transportation Facilities Construction  
11 Program, Items 6A through 6D new projects.

12 CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: Okay. 6A to 6D.

13 MR. PATANE: Yes, Mr. Chair.

14 CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: Very good. Is there a motion  
15 to approve PPAC new projects Item 6A to 6D as presented?

16 MR. KNIGHT: So moved.

17 MR. MAXWELL: Second.

18 CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: There's a motion by Gary and  
19 second by Ted. Any discussion?

20 All in favor say aye.

21 BOARD MEMBERS: Aye.

22 CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: Any opposed?

23 Floyd, conduct roll call.

24 MR. ROEHRICH: Board Member Meck. Board Member  
25 Meck. You're muted, Mr. Meck.

1                   Mr. Chairman, we were not able to record Board  
2 Member Meck's vote. I think we're having some issues, but you  
3 do have a quorum that have approved it, so the motion does  
4 carry.

5                   CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: Motion carries.

6                   That will lead us into the next -- Item 6.  
7 Again, Paul. Did I say 6 or -- 7. I'm sorry.

8                   MR. PATANE: Thank you.

9                   CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: Oh, that's Matt. Got a  
10 little bit confused here.

11                   Good morning, Matt.

12                   MR. MOUL: Good morning, Mr. Chair, members of  
13 the Board. Matt Moul, Deputy State Engineer for Operations.

14                   Before I give the state engineer's report, I'd  
15 like to thank you for passing the resolutions related to the  
16 right-of-way on 238 and 347 here in Maricopa. We have a very  
17 strong working relationship with Maricopa, and we really  
18 appreciate that a lot of people put a lot of hard work into  
19 those resolutions. Thank you.

20                   So for the state engineer's report, we have 107  
21 projects currently under construction, valued at just over  
22 \$2 billion. We did finalize six projects in the month of  
23 August, which was a better month than July. They were valued at  
24 \$886.7 million. So fiscal year to date, we have finalized seven  
25 projects.

1                   That's the end of my report, Mr. Chair, Board  
2 Members.

3                   CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: Does any member have any  
4 question for Matt Moul?

5                   MR. STRATTON: Mr. Chairman.

6                   CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: Steve.

7                   MR. STRATTON: I don't have a question, but I do  
8 have a comment. I'd like to note for the record that Matt is  
9 from Globe. His family's from Globe. I've known him for many,  
10 many years.

11                  MR. SEARLE: We won't hold that against him.

12                  MR. STRATTON: I would be remiss if I didn't take  
13 the opportunity to shine the light on someone that's done well  
14 from Globe, and congratulations, Matt.

15                  MR. MOUL: Mr. Chair, Board Member Stratton,  
16 thank you. I appreciate that.

17                  DIRECTOR HALIKOWSKI: And thank you,  
18 Mr. Stratton. As Board Member Searle pointed out, in the hiring  
19 process, we did not hold that against him, so...

20                  CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: Any members have a question  
21 for Matt?

22                  There being none, let's move on to Item 8,  
23 construction contracts, for discussion and possible action.  
24 Again, that's Mr. Moul.

25                  MR. MOUL: Mr. Chair, Board Members, thank you

1 for approving Items 3G through 3J and awarding those contracts  
2 through the consent agenda.

3 Next slide, please.

4 Item 8A is a bridge deck rehabilitation and scour  
5 retrofit project. Upon receipt of the contractor's DBE  
6 certification for this project, we found some discrepancies that  
7 are going to require further review to make a final  
8 determination. So our recommendation for this project is to  
9 postpone until the next board meeting.

10 MR. STRATTON: Mr. Chairman, that's my district.  
11 I'll make a recommendation to -- or motion to postpone.

12 MR. KNIGHT: Second.

13 CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: There's a motion by Board  
14 Member Stratton to postpone Item 8A and seconded by Gary. With  
15 that, any discussion?

16 All those in favor say aye.

17 BOARD MEMBERS: Aye.

18 CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: Any opposed?

19 Floyd, conduct roll call.

20 MR. ROEHRICH: Board Member Meck.

21 MR. MECK: Aye.

22 MR. ROEHRICH: Chairman, the motion carries.

23 CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: Motion carries.

24 Now moving on to Item 8B. Moul.

25 MR. MOUL: Thank you.

1           This project is a pedestrian pathway and  
2 associated lighting at the intersection of State Route 264 and  
3 Indian Route 4 on the Hopi Reservation. The low bid was  
4 \$775,398. The State's estimate was \$540,928, which is a  
5 difference of 43.3 percent.

6           After talking with the contractor, the costs for  
7 roadway excavation were higher than what was included in the  
8 engineer's estimate due to confined workspace and having to haul  
9 the waste off of the project and off of the reservation for  
10 appropriate disposal.

11           The electrical subcontractor bids were somewhat  
12 higher than what we had anticipated due to the remote location  
13 and the nature of the work, and those same causes led to higher  
14 mobilization costs than we had accounted for in the engineer's  
15 estimate.

16           After review and analysis, we have determined  
17 that this is a responsive and responsible bid, and we recommend  
18 award to Show Low Construction, Inc.

19           CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: Thank you, Matt.

20           That is in my district. Needs your help. Is  
21 there a motion to award Item 8B to Show Low Construction, Inc.,  
22 as presented?

23           MR. KNIGHT: So moved.

24           CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: Motion by Gary and a second  
25 by Steve. Any discussion?

1 All in favor say aye.

2 BOARD MEMBERS: Aye.

3 CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: Any opposed?

4 Floyd, conduct roll call.

5 MR. ROEHRICH: Board Member Meck.

6 MR. MECK: Aye.

7 MR. ROEHRICH: Chairman, the motion carries.

8 CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: Motion carries.

9 That will lead us into Item 8C. Again, Matt.

10 MR. MOUL: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

11 Item 8C is a project to construct flashing yellow  
12 left turn arrows at various locations in the city of Glendale,  
13 as you can see on the map. The low bid for this project was  
14 \$3,826,798. The engineer's estimate was \$2,572,247, which is a  
15 difference of 48.8 percent.

16 After discussion with the City of Glendale, they  
17 did not wish to allocate additional funding to award the project  
18 as it is currently scoped. So our recommendation for this  
19 Item 8C is to reject all bids.

20 CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: Is there a motion to reject  
21 all bids for Item 8C to Martell Electric, LLC, as presented?

22 MR. MAXWELL: So moved.

23 MR. KNIGHT: Second.

24 CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: Motion by Ted and second by  
25 Gary. Any discussion?

1 MR. MAXWELL: Mr. Chair.

2 CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: Ted.

3 MR. MAXWELL: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

4 Sir, I'd just like to hear why -- justification  
5 for the big difference or why you believe that the -- we know  
6 that prices are rising, and obviously the City of Glendale's --  
7 ultimately, their recommendation is to reject. So I don't see  
8 that not happening, but I am curious what the extreme  
9 difference, almost 50 percent, on the bid was.

10 MR. MOUL: Mr. Chairman, Board Member Maxwell, we  
11 continue to see greatly increased costs on asphaltic concrete,  
12 plastic products. Inflation is really taking a toll on our  
13 program.

14 MR. MAXWELL: Appreciate that answer, and we kind  
15 of talked about this yesterday at the Summit. You know, it's --  
16 I think -- I personally believe in infrastructure and  
17 transportation more than anything we've seen, inflation far  
18 exceeding even what it is on the national basis. So thank you  
19 for that answer. Thank you.

20 CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: Board Members, any further  
21 discussion on it?

22 MR. KNIGHT: Mr. Chair.

23 CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: Gary.

24 MR. KNIGHT: Yeah. I'm not a real big fan of  
25 flashing yellow lights -- yellow arrows to begin with, but I

1 think Glendale did the right thing by not wanting the bids to be  
2 accepted. That's a considerable expense, over a million dollars  
3 in addition, and I know what city budgets are like, and a  
4 million dollars is a big hit.

5 So thank you for your report. Thank you,  
6 Mr. Chair.

7 CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: I'd like to repeat, a motion  
8 by Ted, second by Gary. Okay. Any further discussion?

9 There being none, all those in favor say aye.

10 BOARD MEMBERS: Aye.

11 CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: Any opposed?

12 Floyd, conduct roll call.

13 MR. ROEHRICH: Board Member Meck.

14 MR. MECK: Aye.

15 MR. ROEHRICH: Chairman, the motion carries.

16 CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: Motion carries.

17 Let's go into Item 8D, Matt.

18 MR. MOUL: Mr. Chairman, this next project is a  
19 project to pave Marsh Road from Indian Valley Road to Midway  
20 Road. The low bid for this project was \$1,141,959. The State's  
21 estimate was \$1,500,912, which is a difference of 23.9 percent.

22 The reason for the difference, we saw lower costs  
23 of roadway excavation on this project than what we had in the  
24 engineer's estimate. The contractor indicated that they feel  
25 they can be quite a bit more efficient and complete the work

1 more quickly than we had planned for. They found a better deal  
2 on aggregate base than what was included in the engineer's  
3 estimate. They also were able to secure lower pricing on  
4 asphaltic concrete than what we had anticipated.

5 After analyzing and reviewing all of the  
6 differences between our engineer's estimate and the low bid,  
7 our -- we determined that this is a responsive and responsible  
8 bid, and we recommend award to Combs Construction Company, Inc.

9 MR. STRATTON: Mr. Chairman. I think this is --

10 CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: Steve.

11 MR. STRATTON: -- shows how good it is to work in  
12 District 4. I will gladly make the motion to approve.

13 MR. KNIGHT: Second.

14 CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: There is a motion to award  
15 the contract to Combs Construction Company, Inc., as presented.  
16 Motion by Board Member Steve and then second by Gary. Any  
17 discussion?

18 All in favor say aye.

19 BOARD MEMBERS: Aye.

20 CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: Any opposed?

21 Floyd, conduct roll call.

22 MR. ROEHRICH: Board Member Meck.

23 MR. MECK: Aye.

24 MR. ROEHRICH: Chairman, the motion carries.

25 CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: Motion carries.

1           That leads us to moving to item -- Agenda Item 9,  
2 suggestions. Item 9. Boards members will have the opportunity  
3 to suggest items they would like to have placed on future board  
4 meeting agendas and any topics for the next board meeting.  
5 Staff will remind everyone of the location for the next board  
6 meeting.

7           MR. ROEHRICH: So, Mr. Chairman and Board  
8 Members, as you're thinking about topics, I do want to remind  
9 everybody that our next meeting is a virtual meeting set for  
10 October 6th. It's a study session. The intent is to review the  
11 three primary topics that Mr. Patane had said is planning  
12 updates, and that's the AZ SMART Fund, the state freight plan  
13 and then the Long-Range Transportation Plan. So that's what  
14 staff is working on in preparation for that. It will be a Webex  
15 event, and it will be set up virtual.

16           And then after that, the next meeting, the  
17 regular meeting getting together in person is October 21st at  
18 Lake Havasu City, and we've started the coordination with the  
19 City in preparation for that meeting, and any updates that are  
20 necessary, I'll send out to the Board prior to the meeting.

21           So that's all I have for an update, Mr. Chair.

22           CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: Okay. Board members?

23           Okay. Is there a motion to adjourn the board  
24 meeting?

25           MR. STRATTON: So moved.

1 VICE CHAIR KNIGHT: Second.

2 CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: Gary or Steve. Motion's

3 Gary, second.

4 All those in favor say aye.

5 BOARD MEMBERS: Aye.

6 CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: Now we will now adjourn the  
7 meeting.

8 (Meeting adjourned at 11:04 a.m.)

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**Adjournment**

***A motion to adjourn the September 16, 2022, State Transportation Board meeting was made by Board Member Stratton and seconded by Vice Chairman Knights. In a voice vote, the motion carried.***

**Meeting adjourned at 11:04 a.m. PST.**

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

Jesse Thompson, Chairman  
State Transportation Board

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

John S. Halikowski, Director  
Arizona Department of Transportation