

**STATE TRANSPORTATION BOARD MEETING
IN PERSON WITH OPTIONAL TELEPHONIC/WEBEX ATTENDANCE
9:00am, December 16, 2022
Chinle
19 Route 7 NR27
Chinle, Arizona 86503**

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 Board Secretary, Sherry Garcia

A quorum of the State Transportation Board was present. **In attendance (in person):** Chairman Jesse Thompson, Vice Chairman Gary Knight, Board Member Richard Searle, Board Member Ted Maxwell. **In attendance (via WebEx):** Board Member Jackie Meck, Board Member Jenn Daniels. There were approximately 68 members of the public in the audience on-line and approximately 15 members of the public in the audience in person.

Opening Remarks

Chairman Thompson 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
BOARD MEETING

REPORTER'S TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

BOARD MEETING

VIA WEBEX AND IN PERSON AT:

CHINLE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT
OFFICE BOARDROOM
19 Route 7 NR27
Chinle, Arizona 86503

December 16, 2022
9:00 a.m.

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

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(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
9 Gary Knight, Vice Chairman
10 Ted Maxwell, Board Member
11 Jenn Daniels, Board Member (via Webex)
12 Richard Searle, Board Member
13 Jackie Meck, Board Member (via Webex)
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1 (Beginning of excerpt.)

2 CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: We'll now move on to call to
3 the audience. Those telephonically on Webex, again, let me
4 mention that everyone will be muted when they call in to the
5 meeting. When your name is called to provide your comments, you
6 will indicate your presence by virtually raising your hand using
7 your phone keypad or through the Webex application. The Webex
8 host will guide you through the unmuting and muting process
9 following the instructions included with the meeting agenda.

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

15 In the interest of time, I know many of you are
16 already aware of this, a three-minute time limit will be
17 imposed. So again, at this point I'd like to turn it over to
18 Floyd regarding the call to the public.

19 Floyd.

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

21 We received a number of requests for in-person
22 speaking as well as online requests. We'll start with the
23 in-person requests first. Our first speaker is Ms. Kathy
24 Arthur, Chapter President.

25 Ms. Arthur.

1 MS. ARTHUR: Good morning. I am Katherine
2 Arthur. I'm the Many Farms Chapter president. Welcome to
3 Chinle, and thank you for coming to our chapter, Many Farms
4 Chapter, (inaudible) and touring the 191 with us yesterday
5 afternoon. I appreciate it very much.

6 I'd like to say thank you to the Board for
7 authorizing payments, our funds through the new extension,
8 shoulder widening for 191 north of here. I'm not as tense
9 coming -- driving from Many Farms to Chinle anymore. It was so
10 narrow that I would hear the gravel. Nowadays it's widened, and
11 I certainly do appreciate it.

12 The bridges, we have four bridges on 191 that
13 have been rehabbed. I want to again express my appreciation for
14 that one, and I'd like to thank Director Halikowski for coming
15 up, what was it, a year ago, two years ago, and viewing it
16 himself, and I think it really had an impact on what services
17 was needed up here on 191. So thank you for bringing that out.
18 I appreciate it very, very much.

19 I would like to say thank you to Mr. Ed Wilson
20 for (inaudible) bus pullouts on the shoulder widening at this
21 time. There's a lot of traffic, and you get stuck behind the
22 buses, and it take quite a while in order to pass them, so I
23 really do thank you for providing funds for that one as well.
24 So I appreciate that one.

25 And, of course, to Mr. Honorable -- council

1 delegate, Mr. Honorable Kee Allen Begay for attending most of
2 your meetings that we're aware of. We say, Mr. Begay, we need
3 (inaudible), say it online, call in or something, but, of
4 course, no, he showed up, and (inaudible) doing that one.

5 Again, we're requesting continued extending the
6 shoulder widening of where it is south of Many Farms. Initial
7 request (inaudible) which was given to you is to Many Farms High
8 School, there's about a three-mile stretch there at the end of
9 the shoulder widening at this time, down to Many Farms High
10 School.

11 Again, thank you for coming. It's way up here.
12 It's pretty far, but thank you for coming up and listening to us
13 and being present with us. (Speaking Native language.)

14 CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: (Speaking Native language.)
15 Thank you very much for your comments.

16 MR. ROEHRICH: Our next speaker -- and I
17 apologize for this -- Mr. Al Tsedah, Vice President, Many Farms.
18 Mr. Tsedah.

19 MR. TSEDAH: Good morning. (Inaudible) community
20 members here. First of all, I want to thank you all for your
21 help and your assistance with the widening of the Highway 191,
22 Chinle to almost Many Farms. However, I want to continue to
23 encourage your support to continue those widening from that
24 bridge on through the (inaudible) turnoff into the -- into the
25 schools and maybe even pick up some more mileage after that.

1 Thank you so much.

2 And then on top of that, I really want to
3 encourage that we need lighting at Many Farms intersections.
4 You know, we did have some pedestrian accidents there, have had
5 some crashes that happened there, and I really encourage that --
6 your support on that as well, because I'm speaking on behalf of
7 Boys -- not only Boys and Girls Club (inaudible) Navajo at Many
8 Farms. We have a small building. However, you know, we do have
9 kids that come around, and we have services all the way into the
10 evening sometimes. Today it's up to seven o'clock, and it's
11 dark by that time. So we need lighting for sure there at the
12 intersections. And our Boys and Girls Club is sitting right
13 there along the road, along (inaudible) on Route 59, which is
14 the -- which goes into the intersection with 191.

15 The other one is our turnouts into some of these
16 residential where the cattle guards are. I think they need to
17 be widened, because our parents and our children, the boys and
18 girls, they live along the roads. I think their turnouts need
19 to be addressed as well.

20 And then the other thing is, again, I know that
21 last night I was listening to you guys that they need more cars
22 and more traffic to happen in order to lay out a stoplight.
23 However, you know, somehow, some way maybe your support will
24 help us to see that happen in the near future.

25 Again, thank you so much for coming down and

1 listening to us. Thank you.

2 CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: (Inaudible.) Thank you.

3 MR. ROEHRICH: Our next speaker is Mr. Kee Allen
4 Begay, Junior.

5 MR. BEGAY: (Speaking Native language.)

6 Mr. Thompson, I just want to say thank you to all the board
7 members, Mr. Knight, Mr. Searle, for being out in Many Farms
8 last night. I just want to say, Mr. Maxwell, Mr. (Inaudible)
9 Daniels, for allowing us to do a presentation to the Board and
10 to do an on-site visit to some of the areas that I've been
11 talking about throughout the year as well, for the past several
12 years at your board meeting, and you see firsthand of what I've
13 been talking about.

14 The one area that I didn't really go into last
15 night, because I didn't want to divert the attention, the
16 purpose of making a visit to Many Farms was -- is the broadband
17 that we're trying to secure. Well, we did (inaudible) council
18 support the effort of having -- making this 191 all the way from
19 I-40 up to the Utah state line to make this as a smart highway.
20 The Navajo Nation Council had appropriated \$10 million for this
21 particular project. It's just a matter of I don't know if the
22 incoming governor will be able to pick up that support, but I
23 believe Mr. Halikowski or other administration, with the
24 (inaudible) board members would be able to help continue to
25 support that particular effort as well.

1 Of course, there's several school districts in
2 this area that's along 191. You've got the Sanders Unified
3 School, the Ganado Unified School, the Chinle Unified School,
4 the Red Mesa Unified School District. So there's a lot of
5 schools in this -- along this particular route, and then you've
6 got other BIA schools. Then you've got several community
7 schools as well. So there's quite a few of education
8 institutions along this route, not to mention the public safety,
9 the public -- the (inaudible) hospital and so on, and for the
10 purpose of economic development as well. So there is a lot of
11 things that we need to continue to do along this particular
12 route.

13 First of all, I also just wanted to thank the
14 Chinle High School District board, Mr. (Inaudible) Unified
15 School District (inaudible) their board. (Inaudible) the board
16 members. So again, I wanted thank the Many Farms Chapter
17 officials. (Inaudible.) Last night (inaudible) was your day or
18 your evening to host and accommodate the board members that were
19 in attendance, Ms. Arthur, (inaudible), and then (inaudible).

20 There's a lot of things that I want to cover. Of
21 course, three minutes is not enough, but I'm sure there's a lot
22 of things that happen even for me, but nonetheless, I know that
23 there's a lot of issues that we need to continue to do, but
24 again, unfortunately, this is also my last probably -- it is my
25 last official duty in making a report to the Board, because I

1 will be -- not be returning to the council, but I'll be here
2 around to continue to help the community that I represent. So
3 again, thank you very much Mr. Thompson (inaudible) for being
4 here.

5 CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: Thank you, Mr. Kee Allen
6 Begay. You have been a big voice for your community and
7 (inaudible) as well. So thank you for (inaudible) those
8 comments in the future.

9 MR. ROEHRICH: Our next speaker is Mr. Roland
10 Tso.

11 MR. TSO: Good morning, Chair Thompson and
12 members of the Board. I really appreciate as well your visit to
13 the community of Many Farms. We have showed you what we do with
14 a day-to-day basis yesterday. I enjoyed going out with you guys
15 on that tour, and I just want to recap on what we have presented
16 to you.

17 You know, the community of Many Farms is -- to us
18 it's very important, the safety of our -- of our people and our
19 students, you know, within the community of Many Farms. Many
20 Farms is a major corridor between all the adjacent communities,
21 as well as it is a major thoroughfare for tourists that visit
22 the Canyon de Chelly, Monument Valley and also other adjoining
23 major areas that they go for sightseeing.

24 So I guess right-of-ways, I want to thank you for
25 acknowledging the right-of-way issues that we have. In all the

1 years that we have come before you addressing the safety issues
2 on the 191 between Chinle and Many Farms, they're finally being
3 addressed and we appreciate that very much.

4 We continue to address the demand for more safety
5 within the Many Farms and the Chinle area. We serve about -- we
6 have four schools within the community of Many Farms, and Chinle
7 has more. So the safety of school buses and our students
8 getting to school and back home is of utmost importance to us,
9 and we want to advocate on behalf of the community of Many Farms
10 to try to expand the shoulder widening throughout Many Farms.
11 You guys saw that last night, how narrow the road is and how
12 close the school is to US-191, the crosswalk issues and the
13 pedestrian issues. We continue to advocate on behalf of that.
14 We will work with the Board here to continue to address the
15 right-of-way issue, how we can make sure we resolve that to
16 continue the funding of all these projects in the area.

17 We have turnouts that we showed you guys. We
18 have about nine major turnouts. They consist of county roads,
19 BIA roads, and to address the E91 issue that we're implementing,
20 the signage issues, we presented that to the -- before you. So
21 we want to make sure that that's included in the current project
22 as well.

23 We have residential roads within the Many Farms
24 area right across from the school where the crosswalk was
25 recommended last night, and we continue to request that that be

1 addressed as well. We have drainage issues. Probably one of
2 the most important things we have is safety of the -- our people
3 that reside along 191. All the major turnoffs. That 457 is a
4 major drainage area that comes just north of Chinle here and
5 goes all the way along the road, and it's a flood area. All
6 these flood areas that we (inaudible) 460, 463, 467, these need
7 to be addressed, and you guys saw that with the pictures that we
8 showed you and everything shows that what we -- what our people
9 deal with on a daily basis, sometimes twice a year, and it's
10 happened several times. So -- but that's an issue. Really
11 important to us in Many Farms. We've seen people -- students
12 walk along the highway and try to get to school, and I mean,
13 it's a major issue.

14 So there's many more to address, but here is a
15 document, and then we got it into your hands, and Mr. Maxwell,
16 you'll probably get a copy, and look through it, and thank you
17 for your support as well. Thank you for your attending here as
18 chair, Chairman Thompson.

19 CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: (Speaking Native language.)
20 Thank you very much. (Inaudible) today.

21 Floyd.

22 MR. ROEHRICH: Our next speaker is Mr. Gerald
23 Hobbs.

24 MR. HOBBS: Good morning, everyone. My name is
25 Gerald Hobbs. I'm the transportation director for Chinle

1 Unified School District, and welcome to Chinle and Many Farms.

2 But the issue that I would like to speak on is
3 the crosswalks at Many Farms Public Schools, just south of Many
4 Farms (inaudible). There is a traffic, you know, congestion
5 that goes on there in the mornings when everybody's on their way
6 to work. And I do want to thank you guys for widening 191 from
7 between Chinle and Many Farms. That does help. You know,
8 people in the morning still do run our stop signs on school
9 buses, so that -- that had created a safety issue.

10 But Many Farms area north of Black Mountain Wash,
11 you know, we would like to continue that construction, added to
12 what you guys are doing now. So, you know, we do pick up about
13 125 kids along 191 from here to Many Farms. So we appreciate
14 what you guys are doing as far as pullouts, but, you know, there
15 is still a safety issue, especially in the mornings. So that's
16 what I'd like to bring.

17 CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: Thank you very much for
18 bringing up your concern about that school transportation
19 system.

20 Floyd.

21 MR. ROEHRICH: Our next speaker is Mr. Quincy
22 Natay. Mr. Natay? So he's online? Okay. I'm sorry.
23 Mr. Natay, we'll come to you when we get to the online. So
24 please wait. Hold on a minute.

25 Our next speaker is Mr. Michael Lomayaktewa.

1 MR. LOMAYAKTEWA: Good morning, State
2 Transportation Board, (inaudible) and the State Board members.
3 It's an honor to be here again to provide testimony on our
4 behalf, the Hopi Tribe, Hopi Department of Transportation.

5 Like everyone else, I have a long list to go
6 down, but -- so immediately, I want to share, as stated, our
7 concern with the State Route 264 carries whole lot of traffic.
8 We are working on our traffic records to provide the state
9 board, the state transportation program crash data. We
10 submitted the crashes that we were encountering along that
11 stretch of road, locations, like everyone else, that need for
12 shoulder widening. The same exist on State Route 87.

13 The great interest coming for the Board Chair is
14 on bus school route safety, the need for bus turn pullouts that
15 we don't have on 264 and 87. Mainly on 264. So please consider
16 those.

17 (Inaudible) requesting your support in that for
18 learning the new things that we need to do in order to get our
19 airport up and so that it will support our aviation program.

20 Polacca flooding that was mentioned. We're
21 requesting for an evaluation on the bridge structure, whether or
22 not if it's sufficient enough to carry what is running down now
23 as the result of the environmental changes.

24 We're also requesting for the addressing project
25 that we're working on. It's an emergency 911 addressing project

1 that we're working on we haven't had for -- until now.

2 Appreciate the project that the Board supported
3 recently on the State Route 264 on our (inaudible) intersection
4 lighting, a highway safety improvement project. That's ongoing.

5 And the other item is the -- a special invite to
6 the State Transportation Board to come out to Hopi so we'll be
7 able to host and also have interaction with the (inaudible)
8 board at some point.

9 Lastly, our appreciation to Board Chair Thompson.
10 He's been an asset to our Indian country within the state of
11 Arizona, done a great work for Indian nations and appreciate
12 always the interaction with Board Chair Thompson.

13 Thank you, Board.

14 CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: Thank you, Mike. Appreciate
15 those kind comments.

16 MR. ROEHRICH: Our next speaker is Ms. Jacqueline
17 Begaye.

18 MS. BEGAYE: Good morning. I wanted to on behalf
19 of Many Farms Chapter extend my appreciation for your support
20 and making improvement in the rural roads, especially within --
21 from Chinle all the way from Black Mountain Wash, but again, I'd
22 like to reiterate what my colleagues have said, that we'd like
23 for your support -- continued support to continue the
24 construction, the widening of the roads, and what you just saw
25 from -- with your visit last night, from Black Mountain Wash all

1 the way to Many Farms High School turnoff. There is a great
2 need for it, as you probably did see.

3 The roads are very narrow, and we do have -- what
4 Roland Tso was saying, we have do have kids' grandparents that
5 do cross the roads to get their kids to the school, and there
6 are kids that walk around the road, right -- to the turnoff to
7 the Many Farms Lake Road, there's a bus stop -- buses that stop
8 there. Parents meet the kids there, and some kids have to cross
9 the road. So what would help there is a bus pullout right
10 there. That would help and make it easier and safer for the
11 community.

12 And I just would like again to say thank you for
13 your continued support. Thank you.

14 CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: (Speaking Native language.)
15 Thank you.

16 Floyd.

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

19 MR. PRICE: Good morning. Thank you very much
20 for allowing me to be here and for the tribe and Chinle and for
21 all of your service. I know it's quite the commitment that you
22 put in each and every month to travel around the state. It's
23 also one of my favorite things to do, because transportation is
24 so near and dear to my heart.

25 As you know, I'm from the City of Maricopa, and I

1 represent and wear a lot of hats, like most of us do these days,
2 from I-11 to economic development and so many things in between,
3 but again, many thanks and many thanks to Chairman Thompson for
4 all that you've done on this board for the many years, and we
5 really appreciate your service, and thank you for that.

6 Just very briefly, wanted to thank Director
7 Halikowski and the staff and the ADOT board members. Just
8 wanted to give you an update that the 347 has some progress on
9 it, which we're very excited about. It's going to bid in the
10 respect of design and engineering, and so -- from some of the
11 moneys that have been allocated through the State in the past.
12 Clearly a long way to go. Construction funding is not there
13 yet, but certainly we're all working towards that, and so as we
14 talk about, you know, transportation in general and how -- what
15 that looks like, again, many thanks on the -- on the 347
16 movement, but we have a long way to go still.

17 Also wanted to convey some appreciation but at
18 the same time hope for as you move into subsequent year --
19 five-year plans that we continue to include I-11 in the tier two
20 studies as, you know, at the end of the day, it does us no good
21 to spend money on studies that we can't do the next part of it,
22 which is going to ultimately lead to construction and the
23 benefit of the state.

24 So again, many thanks for what we've done so far
25 on the tier one. We have a tier two, at least one segment of

1 that allocated through the State Legislature, and so as we move
2 into five-year plans and other things, it would continue to
3 behoove us to add funds for those things so that we can continue
4 that project and eventually get this critical roadway built for
5 the state of Arizona.

6 And last but not least, I want to say that,
7 again, as transportation is so critical to the City of Maricopa,
8 the State of Arizona, that, you know, it's critical and crucial
9 for us to participate regionally, and while Pinal County's
10 regional plan did not succeed in this particular go-around, I
11 know we all know the old adage in politics: If at first you
12 don't succeed, try, try again. And right now we are trying to
13 be a regional player, and if -- perhaps Director Halikowski can
14 speak to this more, but as we move into a possible -- and I say
15 possible -- special session held by the Governor, if that should
16 happen, we are trying to do our best to promote that Prop 400
17 extension be a part of that. Now, whether that happens or not,
18 you know, we won't know, and it's difficult in the holiday
19 season as you well know, but we are speaking very much so -- in
20 fact, I was on the phone last night and today with Senator Shope
21 and Representative Martinez and Warren Peterson and others. So
22 we're doing our best to make sure that, you know, regionally,
23 that our representatives know how important transportation is to
24 us and the entire state. So hopefully that will materialize.
25 If it doesn't, then we'll keep going, the next opportunity, but

1 we'll never give up on this, and we just wanted to thank you all
2 for your service. Appreciate it.

3 CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: Thank you, Mayor, for always
4 expressing your concern and support to the Board. Thank you.

5 Next?

6 MR. ROEHRICH: Our next speaker is Mr. Glenn
7 Kephart.

8 MR. KEPHART: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Board
9 Members, Director Halikowski and Floyd, for the opportunity to
10 present and speak before you today.

11 First of all, I would like to thank each one of
12 you for the work that you do to try to get the transportation
13 dollars spent appropriately in Arizona to have the best system
14 we can. I know it's a daunting task, because the needs -- the
15 needs exceed the resources to do that, and I know how hard you
16 work to try to get it right, but then -- and additionally, with
17 that I'd like to thank you for understanding that rural Arizona
18 is an important part of that, and being here today for this
19 meeting really demonstrates that. So thank you.

20 I'd also like to thank you for the partnership
21 you've had with the State of Arizona, the Governor's office and
22 the Arizona Commerce Authority to help facilitate the expansion
23 of broadband throughout Arizona, and I would request that Navajo
24 County has 132-mile -- (inaudible) mile broadband project that
25 we're embarking on, and much of that will ideally need to

1 co-locate in an ADOT right-of-away on 77 and 260, and I just
2 request (inaudible) continue that partnership to make the
3 permitting process expedient and smooth as it can be within the
4 requirements. So thank you for that.

5 I also wanted to take a minute to thank Chairman
6 Thompson, my longtime friend and leader and mentor for his
7 service. Twenty-seven years as board of supervisor, and I was
8 honored and had the pleasure of work -- worked for Jesse in his
9 role for Navajo County. And then for the past -- is it six
10 years -- on the ADOT board, serving -- serving not only the
11 local residents, but the residents of the state of Arizona. And
12 I know that each of you know from working with Jesse his passion
13 and his dedication and relentfulness of how hard he works to
14 improve the environment and the conditions for the people of
15 Arizona, the people he serves.

16 Jesse, you're absolutely the best. It's
17 tremendously been my honor to work with you. You'll always be a
18 friend, and I know as each one of you know, just because Jesse
19 is stepping down from the chairman of the Board, you'll still
20 very much hear from him, as he's very much passionate to
21 continue to improve the road conditions, and especially and I
22 support very much his efforts he's had since I've known him to
23 improve school bus routes. That is the one area that is so
24 obvious that children throughout Arizona ought to have the same
25 opportunities to get to and from school on a road that's

1 acceptable, and in many cases, as Jesse has pointed out, is not
2 so. I know it's not easy. We don't have all the solutions, but
3 we need to continue to work towards those solutions.

4 Thank you very much for that. I hear the beeper.
5 So Jesse, we'll talk again. Thank you.

6 CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: Thank you, Glenn. Even today
7 I still consider him to be my county manager as well.
8 (Inaudible) Jon Osgood and Miles Begay. So I'd like to mention
9 their names as well.

10 Floyd.

11 MR. ROEHRICH: Our next speaker is Mr. Jon
12 Osgood.

13 MR. OSGOOD: Good morning, Chairman Thompson.
14 Good morning, Chairman Thompson, and members of the Board, Jon
15 Osgood, former Navajo County Public Works director and longtime
16 Arizona resident, which is a capacity in which I address you
17 this morning.

18 Chairman Thompson, it's been a -- one of the
19 highlights of my 35-year-plus public service career to have
20 served with you in your role as Navajo County supervisor and
21 your various roles on the State Transportation Board. Your
22 dedication, passion and commitment to representing Navajo County
23 and the State of Arizona, particularly those areas where
24 transportation challenges are perhaps more evident than in the
25 urban and suburban areas of the state, is really unparalleled.

1 This morning I'd just like to say a few words in
2 support of your efforts and the efforts of this board to ensure
3 that all students, including Native American students, have
4 access to safe and dependable roads over which they travel to
5 school every day, access which in terms protects the
6 Constitutionally-guaranteed right of equal access to education.

7 I commend this board and the ADOT staff for its
8 commitment, its relentless commitment really to making
9 data-driven decisions when addressing significant transportation
10 system priorities with limited, finite resources. It's a
11 tremendously challenging, complex, but necessary responsibility,
12 and as you know, over the years Chairman Thompson has raised
13 awareness around the need for good data as it relates to the
14 condition of gravel and dirt roads in rural -- in rural areas
15 and student attendance at school.

16 At some point in the near future it would be
17 great to know if the State of Arizona Departments of
18 Transportation and Education, perhaps even in coordination with
19 the federal Department of the Interior feel it's worthwhile to
20 collaborate in making a data-driven case that improving road
21 conditions in primarily rural areas would improve attendance at
22 school or to pursue the question: Does the poor condition of
23 rural tribal roads contribute to higher school absence rates for
24 students in rural tribal areas, thereby creating unequal access
25 to education between urban and rural students? Having the data

1 or identifying the data gaps could be helpful to this board and
2 ADOT staff as you go about the important work of setting and
3 funding the State's transportation priorities.

4 Board Members, thank you very much for your time,
5 and again, for the critically important and difficult work you
6 do on behalf of the people of the Arizona. And Chairman
7 Thompson, thank you for your outstanding service on the Board,
8 and best wishes for whatever you choose to do next, because as
9 Glenn said, we know you're not done. Thank you very much.

10 CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: Thank you, Jon, for those
11 words.

12 MR. ROEHRICH: Our next speaker is Mr. Harris
13 Davis.

14 MR. DAVIS: Hello. Good morning. (Speaking
15 Native language.)

16 CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: (Speaking Native language.)

17 MR. DAVIS: My name is Harris Davis from Many
18 Farms High School, speaking on behalf of the transportation
19 department. Sorry. Running late. We're -- I just got back
20 from a long route.

21 Anyways, yeah, talking about continuing the
22 construction on Black Mountain Wash, which is good. We want to
23 continue more from Black Mountain Wash into Many Farms as well.
24 It's also a concern with Mr. Gerald Hobbs as well. We're
25 dealing with students on Many Farms side also, and we're

1 wondering if you could have pullouts starting from Milepost 450
2 into Many Farms. They only have -- they only have pullouts from
3 Milepost 450 into Chinle from there.

4 So like I said, we're dealing with a lot of
5 vehicles and we're running our bus lights as well. So that
6 highway's dangerous as far as have I seen it now, the Highway
7 191 from Many Farms into Chinle. I just guess we would like to
8 greatly appreciate to extend it more from Black Mountain Wash.
9 They're extending -- widening the road more for more pullovers,
10 and we would greatly appreciate another pullout, too, as well
11 from, like I said, Milepost 450 into Many Farms.

12 So as far as I know, that's pretty much it.
13 (Inaudible) the road is going good from there on. So
14 (inaudible). That's all I have to say. Thank you.

15 CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: (Inaudible.) Thank you.
16 Floyd.

17 MR. ROEHRICH: Our next speaker is Mr. Daryl
18 Ahasteen.

19 MR. AHASTEEN: (Speaking Native language.)

20 CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: (Speaking Native language.)

21 MR. AHASTEEN: (Inaudible.) I'll skip my Navajo
22 introduction, because that takes about five minutes and they
23 only give me three.

24 Chinle has really changed. I started here in
25 1979 as a policeman, and I went to the school over there. They

1 told me no (inaudible) board meetings way over there and coming
2 through here. Hey, Chinle has a Denny's now. I am really proud
3 of Chinle. Chinle (inaudible). There's a lot of improvements
4 since 1979.

5 What I came here to talk about is (inaudible),
6 talking about Pinta exit, Milepost 320 on I-40. We're still
7 trying to do some improvement and kind of create the small city
8 out there. We partner with the -- a new non-profit, Native
9 Promise, and we submitted a \$1.7 million grant proposal to
10 reconnecting communities, a discretionary grant, out of our
11 ARPA. I feel so confident that we will get something done that
12 we pledge \$438,000 of our ARPA money to do a matching on that.
13 So we are extremely planning on this and -- with the help of the
14 ADOT grant department that we submit that application, and we're
15 moving.

16 There is a group called Freight Relay that I'm
17 supposed to be having a meeting with now, and that one they want
18 to set up at the Milepost 322. It's not like a transcon
19 (phonetic) lane -- transcon. They bring in a truck, drop it off
20 and then go to sleep and then pick up another one the next day.
21 Just the relay driver drops off a vehicle and picks up another
22 one and takes it home.

23 Chairman Thompson, a shoutout. Thank you for all
24 the services that you provided for not only off reservation but
25 on reservation, also as a board of supervisor. I think I

1 retired under your tenure as a board of supervisor as a
2 detective sergeant for Navajo County Sheriff's Office. So
3 that's been, what, 20 years ago? And once I'm done, you have to
4 excuse me, because I have to go home, Nahata Dziil, an hour and
5 a half away to go feed my community their Christmas dinner. So
6 thank you. (Speaking Native language.)

7 CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: Thank you for always being
8 present at these meetings to hear the issues that matters most
9 to the community and supporting the State Transportation Board
10 as well.

11 MR. AHASTEEN: (Speaking Native language.) Thank
12 you.

13 MR. ROEHRICH: Our next speaker is Ms. Roberta
14 Yazzie.

15 MS. YAZZIE: (Speaking Native language.) Good
16 morning. My name is Roberta Yazzie. I'm from -- is it okay if
17 I take my -- off my mask?

18 CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: Yes.

19 MS. YAZZIE: I'm from -- I'm a lifetime resident
20 of Many Farms and Round Rock, Arizona. I traveled Highway 191
21 most all my life, and on August 3rd -- I'm a single mother, a
22 disabled person. I'm 60 years old. I have two daughters, a
23 31-year-old daughter and a 15-year-old daughter. I travel --
24 like I said, I travel on Highway 191 every day from Many Farms
25 to Chinle. I take my daughter to school, Chinle High School,

1 and safety and -- is very important to me when I travel.

2 On August 3rd, I was going to Farmington, New
3 Mexico, to buy some new clothes for my daughter who was starting
4 school at Chinle High School. We went toward Round Rock, and
5 the morning -- the morning of August 3rd, CMAR Construction
6 dropped a large bar on our vehicle. We made a head-on collision
7 with it. The bar -- this is -- this is not exactly the bar, but
8 later on I went back over there and I took the pictures of it.

9 It scares me, and it's very emotional for me to
10 even talk about it right now. We were lucky, very lucky it hit
11 us from the front. I think about it, and I always think what if
12 it had gone through the window? My daughter was sitting on the
13 passenger side. (Inaudible) if it had gone into our vehicle.
14 And this is what my vehicle looks like after the accident.

15 Police arrived. I was told by the forklift
16 operator to get off the road. I was in shock, and I should have
17 stayed right there, but I moved -- I moved off the road. The
18 forklift driver dropped -- can I continue?

19 CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: Sure. Go ahead. Complete
20 your...

21 MS. YAZZIE: The forklift operator dropped this
22 large bar right in front of us. It slipped onto the road where
23 we were traveling, and to this day my vehicle, I still have my
24 vehicle damaged in front. This door -- this door on this side
25 wouldn't open for quite some time.

1 So I have it -- my vehicle didn't look like this
2 before, and this is what it looks like right now as it's parked
3 outside right here. And like I said, I can't afford to -- I
4 can't -- I can't afford to fix my vehicle. I'm a single mom. I
5 get my -- paycheck to paycheck, that's how I live.

6 And CMAR Construction never got a citation for
7 this, and I'm very disappointed in our police department. I've
8 reached out to people. I've left messages for the police
9 department, Navajo Nation people and even our council delegate,
10 Kee Allen Begay. I left him two messages at the chapter house.

11 I needed help. I had -- I had full coverage on
12 this vehicle, and my insurance just (inaudible) on me, too, and
13 right now a hood is \$400. And I went to the two guys that work
14 at ADOT in Many Farms, and I said, Can you just find me a hood
15 or something?

16 CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: We understand, you know, you
17 can get emotional (inaudible) understanding if you're hurt.
18 Everybody is here. You talk to one of our staff members are
19 here (inaudible) --

20 MS. YAZZIE: Yes.

21 CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: (Inaudible.)

22 MS. YAZZIE: I have -- I have a police report.
23 If I could afford a lawyer -- I couldn't hire a lawyer. And
24 somehow maybe I will, but thank you for all you do for us on the
25 road out there. I appreciate it, and I am grateful for it.

1 Thank you for giving me maybe five minutes. Thank you. But I
2 need your help, and I want this known. I don't want to just
3 sweep it under the rug and pretend like nothing happened. I
4 want some accountability. Accountability is everywhere.

5 CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: Thank you very much for
6 your -- for voicing your concerns.

7 Floyd.

8 MR. ROEHRICH: Our next speakers are online, so
9 we'll start with Mr. Alberto Peschlakai, and I see he has raised
10 his hand.

11 Kristi, please work with Mr. Peschlakai to get
12 him unmuted.

13 WEBEX HOST: You are unmuted.

14 MR. PESCHLAKAI: Hello?

15 MR. ROEHRICH: Go ahead, Mr. Peschlakai.

16 WEBEX HOST: You're unmuted.

17 MR. ROEHRICH: We can hear you.

18 MR. PESCHLAKAI: Oh, okay.

19 Good morning, Chairman, Vice Chairman, members of
20 the Board -- members of the Arizona State Transportation Board,
21 staff, in-person attendees and virtual and telephonic attendees.

22 My name is Alberto Peschlakai, District II
23 Supervisor of the Navajo County Board of Supervisors, and with
24 respect to my (audio interruption) Native American with the -- a
25 tribal member with the Navajo Nation.

1 (Speaking Native language.)

2 On behalf of the Navajo County Board of
3 Supervisors and administration, and also similar sentiments to
4 our county manager had mentioned and as well as our former
5 public works director, also like to add additional comments in
6 regards to offer our appreciation to Chairman Thompson for his
7 service and representation on the State Transportation Board for
8 the three counties, especially for Navajo County as -- and its
9 respective tribes.

10 Chairman Thompson's tenure as a board of
11 supervisor contributed to his experience and proven member of
12 the board that we have had and continue to have confidence in
13 that position as he was an addition to the board. And then
14 also, his vision and steadfastness have put the Board and ADOT
15 on solid footing moving forward in advocating for transportation
16 related initiatives, especially relating to advocacy for tribal
17 transportation, especially relating to school bus routes.

18 As a result of his advocacy contributed to two --
19 the governmental accountability travels road study summary.
20 That was -- that was accomplished through his advocacy on the
21 board of supervisors. That was completed on May 22nd, 2017,
22 through the Governmental Accountability Office that had
23 published that report to the House Transportation and
24 Infrastructure Committee, which resulted in his continued
25 advocacy to the State on the State Transportation Board relating

1 to school bus routes.

2 So again, thank you, Chairman Thompson, for your
3 public service and your role as a State Transportation Board
4 member. For the past chairman, we wish you the best in your
5 next adventure, and also, thank you to the current State
6 Transportation Board members for your service, and we look
7 forward to your continued leadership and role in continuing to
8 enhance our state transportation system.

9 And lastly, thank you to Delegate Begay for your
10 advocacy and leadership as our 24th Navajo Nation council
11 delegate, and we appreciate at Navajo County for your service
12 and wish you the best.

13 Thank you, Chairman.

14 CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: (Inaudible.) So thank you
15 for those comments. I just want to let everyone know that I --
16 all those expressions of kindness, I didn't tell them to say
17 those things.

18 MR. KNIGHT: (Inaudible.)

19 CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: (Inaudible) their language,
20 and they can say whatever they want to, but there's (inaudible)
21 share that with you later, Floyd and John.

22 Go ahead.

23 MR. ROEHRICH: Our next speaker is Mr. Quincy
24 Natay, and I see Mr. Natay has raised his hand.

25 Kristi, please work with him to unmute.

1 WEBEX HOST: You are unmuted. Mr. Natay, it
2 looks like you muted your line again. You'll have to unmute.

3 MR. NATAY: How's that? Is that better?

4 WEBEX HOST: Yep. You are now unmuted. Thank
5 you.

6 MR. NATAY: Perfect. First I want to welcome the
7 Arizona State Board Transportation Board members, Chair Thompson
8 board members and staff. Welcome to my school district. Very
9 honored to host you, and in the future I would offer my
10 facilities anytime you want to host a meeting north of I-40.

11 I just want to share a couple of concerns. You
12 know, we've talked a lot about safety, and you guys have a very
13 daunting task in the State of Arizona to provide routes and
14 roads that are -- that are safe for individuals that travel in
15 on a regular basis. As Gerald mentioned, we transport over 125
16 students every day. Thank you for the project between Chinle
17 and Black Mountain Wash with the turnouts.

18 I would ask that -- Delegate Begay spoke to it,
19 the broadband issue. You already have clearances. You have
20 right-of-way access. Let's run a fiber down that road so that
21 all of our patrons north of I-40 can begin enjoying high-speed
22 internet. During the pandemic, we learned very well that rural
23 America lacked connectivity, and so this is something that
24 continues to need to be addressed, and I think the pipeline is
25 there with the highway. A smart -- a smart highway is in the

1 foreseeable future, and that would greatly benefit my children
2 that attend our school district.

3 The other is considering -- your consideration
4 widening the road from Many Farms Public School to Rough Rock
5 Junction and maybe even, as requested by the Many Farms Chapter,
6 to the Many Farms High School turnout.

7 And I just want to share something with you.
8 First of all, thank you for taking the trip up here. I was not
9 aware that -- I was under the assumption that Terminal 1 was
10 still under construction. I was surprised to learn that you
11 guys landed in our airport today. But joking aside, our sense
12 of reality is often not known unless it's visually and
13 physically experienced, and so by you coming up here and seeing
14 firsthand what we deal with on a day-to-day basis, I think
15 hopefully will shed some light on the needs in our community.

16 And then last but not least, I'm going to end
17 with this. We had a young man's life taken over the weekend.
18 He just graduated high school last year. His life was cut
19 short, and so the pleadings about widening the road need
20 consideration, because these accidents do happen, and it's
21 unfortunate that this young man's life was taken, and if the
22 road was a little wider, maybe he might have survived the
23 accident, the head-on collision that he was subject to.

24 And so with that, Chairman Thompson and the board
25 members and staff, and my staff as well, thank you for

1 accommodating the Arizona State Board of Transportation.
2 (Speaking Native language.)

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

5 Floyd.

6 MR. ROEHRICH: Our next speaker is Mr. Ron
7 Angerame -- Angerame. Please raise your hand.

8 WEBEX HOST: You're now unmuted.

9 MR. ANGERAME: Hi. Good morning. This is Ron
10 Angerame. I really want to thank everybody for this
11 opportunity. I want to thank the ADOT board for the opportunity
12 to chat with you.

13 I distributed a document. I don't know if you --
14 you've had an opportunity to receive it or not, but I wanted to
15 talk a little bit about the traffic situation on 347. In the
16 document I provided, I gave a couple of examples from Google
17 Maps, and, you know, the first example is that if we take -- if
18 we take a time during the day, at ten o'clock in the morning,
19 the transit time from the north end of Maricopa to the I-10 is
20 approximately 20 minutes, and it's 17 miles. So that gives you
21 an average speed of about 51 miles an hour. Unfortunately, when
22 you take the rush hour traffic, let's say seven o'clock in the
23 morning, that transit time more than doubles from 20 minutes to
24 44 minutes, which then means the average speed is 23 miles an
25 hour versus the 51 miles an hour.

1 I pulled the stats from the American
2 Transportation Research Institute. The ATRI does an analysis of
3 the top -- top bottlenecks across the country, and I wanted to
4 see where we ranked, and unfortunately, if I -- if I take the
5 transit time and the average miles an hour of Maricopa at our
6 peak versus a lot of the other, you know, terrible bottlenecks
7 that exist in other locations, we're number three. So, you
8 know, the Long Island Expressway on 495 in New York is number
9 one, and similarly, leading into the George Washington Bridge on
10 I-95 in Fort Lee is number two, and with our transit time, we're
11 number three.

12 So I just wanted to bring an awareness to this,
13 that our traffic situation is quite critical. I appreciate
14 everything that the -- that the ADOT board has done to date, and
15 I just want to continue to emphasize the challenges that we face
16 commuting on this road. Thank you.

17 CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: Thank you to you as well for
18 those comments.

19 MR. ROEHRICH: Our next speaker is Ms. Jennifer
20 Thompson.

21 Ms. Thompson, please raise your hand.

22 WEBEX HOST: You are now unmuted.

23 MS. THOMPSON: Hello?

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

25 WEBEX HOST: (Inaudible) Ms. Thompson.

1 MS. THOMPSON: Can you hear me?

2 MR. ROEHRICH: Yes. Please go on and make your
3 comments.

4 MS. THOMPSON: Okay. Thank you.

5 Good morning, Chairman Thompson and members of
6 the Board, and you know, thank you Chairman Thompson for your
7 service to the ADOT Board. I'm so thankful I had the
8 opportunity to meet you in person before (audio interruption) go
9 on the a different path in your life. As most of you know, I'm
10 the controller and townsite utilities manager for Freeport-
11 McMoRan in Bagdad, which is a copper mine.

12 And today I just want to give an update (audio
13 interruption) status for the State Route 97 reconstruction.
14 Shortly after I presented last month, a RAISE NOFO was
15 announced, and further details were issued just a couple of days
16 ago. (Audio interruption) is working to refine our grant
17 application based on those specifics, and we're also working
18 (audio interruption) from various entities and agencies in our
19 area.

20 We're also -- as we move closer to our (audio
21 interruption) your continued support of the efforts Freeport and
22 ADOT are undertaking to develop improvements (audio
23 interruption) will definitely facilitate safer access for the
24 several hundred commercial (audio interruption) vehicles, as
25 well as providing faster response for (audio interruption) also

1 use this road to reach emergencies on US-93.

2 Thank you, Mr. Chairman and members of the Board
3 for the opportunity to again speak at these meetings, and thank
4 you, Director Halikowski and the ADOT team, and again, in
5 particular, the Northwest District staff for their continued
6 partnership and (audio interruption) project, and I wish you all
7 very happy, healthy and safe holidays. Thank you.

8 CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: Thank you, Ms. Thompson.

9 MR. ROEHRICH: Our next -- our next speaker is
10 Ms. Fern Benally.

11 WEBEX HOST: Ms. Benally, you are now unmuted.

12 MR. ROEHRICH: Ms. Benally, are you there?

13 WEBEX HOST: Ms. (audio interruption) requested
14 to unmute, and it looks like you're unmuted at this time.

15 MS. BENALLY: (Inaudible.)

16 MR. ROEHRICH: Yes, ma'am. We can hear you.
17 Please make your comment.

18 MS. BENALLY: Good morning. My name is Fern
19 Benally, as mentioned. Good morning, Honorable Board.

20 This morning I would like to thank Mr. Jesse
21 Thompson for his service, his public service. So I'm very
22 grateful for all he has done for Navajo and Hopi lands and the
23 state, of course, and the county.

24 I want to speak again on Navajo 41, which is 47
25 miles between US Highway 160 and Pinion's Navajo 4. It has --

1 this arterial road has 13 miles of dirt road in the Black Mesa
2 region, and about 26 miles of this is not maintained because
3 nobody is claiming the road, and this is a bus route both for
4 Pinion Unified and Kayenta Unified School Districts.

5 The chapters have passed a resolution to have
6 ADOT acquire this road. Our students miss a lot of school, as a
7 GAO Report -17-425, which Mr. Thompson has advocated for. The
8 report states that the Native lands receive less money than its
9 surrounding counties, and I think that that is one of the
10 reasons why our roads are very poor. So our students are at
11 great disadvantage.

12 Right now the dirt road on Navajo 41 is ice
13 packed from the snow while the paved roads are clear. Paved
14 roads and clear road during inclement weather is greatly
15 desired, and that is the reason for my request for ADOT to
16 acquire Navajo 41. And I did in October send resolutions for
17 that road from the surrounding chapters and also agency counsel.
18 I would like to get this to move forward, and I would like to
19 meet all of the board members that -- who will still be on the
20 Board and speak to each one of them about this request. It is
21 not only my request, but the community of the greater Black Mesa
22 region and surrounding communities are requesting that as well.

23 Thank you so much for this time on the floor, and
24 I just want to say again we are greatly grateful for you,
25 Mr. Thompson, and not that we're less grateful for the rest of

1 the Board, but however, this is I'm told his last day, so I wish
2 you well, and merry Christmas to everyone on the line and at the
3 meeting, and most of all, the honorable Arizona ADOT Board.
4 Thank you.

5 CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: (Speaking Native language.)
6 Appreciate all those wonderful comments.

7 MR. ROEHRICH: So Chairman, that was the last
8 request to speak that I received but there is a person who has
9 raised his hand -- I'm sorry. Mayor Nancy Smith, go ahead. She
10 just raised her hand. Ms. Smith -- Kristi, could you unmute
11 Ms. Smith?

12 WEBEX HOST: Yes.

13 MAYOR SMITH: Hi. This is --

14 WEBEX HOST: Mayor Smith, you are unmuted.

15 MAYOR SMITH: Hi. This is Mayor Nancy Smith.
16 I'm sorry. I didn't realize I had to raise my hand in advance
17 of my name being called, so I apologize for that.

18 I'm happy to be here to talk to you today. Thank
19 you, Chairman Thompson, for all of your service and your time on
20 the Arizona State Transportation Board. Thank you, Director
21 Halikowski and other members of the Board.

22 As I mentioned in November's meeting, we had a
23 three-week period during November where we had eight closures
24 and the closure of State Route 347 for many, many, many, many
25 hours, and I had indicated at that time there were also two

1 incidences of two losses of life. And so we're approaching
2 today's -- a message to the State Transportation Board from that
3 perspective in regards to the impact that it has to our
4 families.

5 Most of the city's workforce, 69.8 percent,
6 commute out of the city to work 16 -- to work 16 or more miles
7 one way. There are three major state roads that can be accessed
8 through Maricopa: State Route 347, State Route 84 and State
9 Route 238, but most computer -- commuters, 75 percent, travel
10 via State Route 347 to and from work, and this has led to heavy
11 congestion, increasing travel time for daily commutes and
12 creating longer times for unsupervised youth.

13 And that's our focus today, is this impact of
14 this one road to so many people in the city of Maricopa, to our
15 families, to our youth. This longer commute time is also a
16 barrier to becoming more involved with the community and
17 building neighborhood attachments, which actually is really
18 great for teens and for families.

19 It is not uncommon for the parents to begin their
20 grocery shopping at 7:00 or 8:00 at night once they finally get
21 back into town. They close their garage doors at that point
22 because it's beginning to get dark. They -- and they are safe
23 behind their cinder block fences with a long time for bonding
24 with -- with a little time for bonding for their neighbors.

25 And so we just wanted to draw your attention to

1 the fact that not only is it an impact to obviously cars that
2 are stuck on 347, but because they are stuck there, and because
3 75 percent of our commuters use this road, it has a significant
4 impact to our youth and to our family.

5 We just yesterday met with our state
6 representative, Theresa, to form legislation for State Route 347
7 asks for revenue, and so we're hopeful for some funds to come
8 from that perspective.

9 And as I mentioned at our last meeting, we're
10 also requesting a meeting with ADOT and DPS to discuss safety on
11 State Route 347. Even though we don't have all the funds to
12 actually improve State Route 347, we know that there are things
13 that can be done to improve the safety, and therefore eliminate
14 this congestion and eliminate -- at least eliminate some of the
15 congestion and eliminate the accidents that happen so frequently
16 on 347 and taking time away from our families and our teenagers.

17 So I thank you for this time to be able to speak
18 and help you understand the message for -- from the City of
19 Maricopa. Thank you very much.

20 CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: We do appreciate your
21 comments and continue to join us at these meetings.

22 So Floyd.

23 MR. ROEHRICH: Next speaker is Ms. Priscilla
24 Behnke -- Behnke, and I see she has raised her hand.

25 Kristi, please work to unmute.

1 WEBEX HOST: You are unmuted at this time.

2 MS. BEHNKE: Good morning, members of the Board.

3 My name is Priscilla Behnke. Can you guys hear me?

4 MR. ROEHRICH: (Inaudible.)

5 WEBEX HOST: Yes.

6 MS. BEHNKE: Okay. Thank you.

7 I'm here today to speak on behalf of the
8 Maricopa 347 road for the Be Awesome Youth Coalition. We serve
9 families and youth and develop confident, connected and
10 successful kids here. Most of our families, as Mayor Nancy
11 Smith has mentioned, utilize the 347, and unfortunately, the
12 overcapacity is causing delays for families, up to two and a
13 half hour commute times to return home. This is costing our
14 families times that's not being put towards each other and their
15 community.

16 We have been tracking over the last ten years
17 risk factors that affect our youth here in Maricopa. We use
18 that -- we utilize the Maricopa Youth Survey, and the two
19 highest risk factors that we're seeing are low neighborhood
20 attachment as well as family conflict, and both are
21 significantly rising over the last six years. Neighborhood
22 attachment rose from just 30 percent to over 56 percent since
23 2016, and family conflict used to be at 30 percent, and now it's
24 at 54 -- 50.4 percent.

25 We're committed to working with our families and

1 youth on an individual to level help them reach their potential.
2 However, the roads leading in and out of the community are key
3 environmental factors affecting three-fourths of our families
4 and community members, and I ask that you consider that when you
5 are making plans for the 347 here.

6 Thank you for your time.

7 CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: Thank you for your comments.

8 MR. ROEHRICH: Our next speaker is Mr. Vincent
9 Manfredi. Mr. Manfredi, please raise your hand. Mr. Manfredi,
10 are -- do you still wish to speak?

11 WEBEX HOST: Mr. Manfredi, if you're a call-in
12 member, please press star three on your phone, and that will
13 give us that hand raise signal.

14 I'm not seeing his hand raised at this time.

15 MR. ROEHRICH: Mr. Chairman, we just received a
16 request to speak from Mr. Wallace Youvella. Mr. Youvella, I see
17 you've raised your hand.

18 Kristi, could you please unmute him?

19 WEBEX HOST: Mr. Youvella, you've been unmuted at
20 this time.

21 MR. YUVELLA: Good morning. Can you hear me?

22 MR. ROEHRICH: Yes, sir.

23 WEBEX HOST: Yes.

24 MR. ROEHRICH: Please make your comments.

25 MR. YUVELLA: Thank you, and thank you for

1 giving me the time, Arizona State Transportation Board. But I'd
2 like to first thank -- well, let me introduce myself. My name's
3 Wallace Youvella, Junior. I'm with the Hopi Tribal Council. I
4 also serve on the Hopi Tribe's transportation task team, and
5 it's an honor to join you this morning.

6 I'd like to also thank Chairman Thompson for all
7 the service he has given to not only the state, but Navajo
8 County, the Hopi and Navajo Nations in all the many capacities
9 you have served. You've been a great asset to the state and to
10 our people. I'd like to thank you, Chairman Thompson.

11 I want to echo the sentiments by Mr. Mike --
12 Michael Lomayaktewa, our transportation director of the Hopi
13 Tribe with the comments he made about Highways 264 and 87.
14 Namely, Highway 264, and it's been -- long been viewed as one of
15 the safest stretches of highway, at least along the -- within
16 the borders of the Hopi Nation, and that was due to the lack of
17 crash data. And we all know that that is a misconception, and
18 we -- the Hopi Tribe is working diligently and aggressively to
19 get that crash data to ADOT and to the various funding sources
20 so that we can improve the highway, not only just for Hopi but
21 for all the many people who travel that road, along with our
22 neighbors from the Navajo Nation and all the many school buses
23 that travel along that road.

24 And -- but I would like to thank ADOT for going
25 the extra mile and meeting with Hopi and addressing the needs of

1 the Hopi Nation. We have started a great collaboration with
2 ADOT in the office in Flagstaff, and that is very much
3 appreciated.

4 But I would like to again express our needs here
5 on Hopi, especially along Highway 264, and you know, there are
6 various school buses that travel 264 on Hopi: Holbrook School
7 District, Ganado School District, Hopi Schools, Tuba City School
8 District. There are very many school districts that travel this
9 road, and I might even want to pitch that we need a paved road
10 between Polacca and Low Mountain, what is now called the Upper
11 Polacca Road, and formerly the Low Mountain Road, and it would
12 be wonderful if we could make that a state road and get that
13 paved so that our students coming from the Navajo Nation and the
14 Low Mountain and Pinion areas can have a paved road to come to
15 Hopi High School.

16 But I would like to thank you again for allowing
17 me the floor. Happy holidays and merry Christmas to everyone.
18 And again, Chairman Thompson, thank you very much for all your
19 service. (Speaking Native language.)

20 CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: You as well, Delegate
21 Youvella. Thank you for your comments.

22 MR. ROEHRICH: Mr. Chairman, I would like to see
23 if Vincent Manfredi is still there.

24 Mr. Manfredi, if you're there, could you please
25 raise your hand? It does not look, Mr. Chair, as if as he is

1 online.

2 CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: Okay. We'll just continue to
3 move on, and thank you for all your wonderful comments,
4 things that you know or have a concern through the public from
5 the area that you come from. I can assure you that these are --
6 the comments that were made, they are not lost. Hopefully at
7 the end of the year, we are reminded by the staff that these
8 are -- how many times an individual has commented about this
9 particular project. So they're also in the minutes, and the
10 Board -- there's also, as you will see, once we move on to
11 agenda, there will be report regarding some projects within the
12 Native American communities. So they have included that in
13 every month's meeting. So again, to each one of you, thank you.

14 So again, let's go on to the director's report.
15 John, really happy to see you join us this morning.

16 DIRECTOR HALIKOWSKI: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
17 And before I start, I just want to give a shoutout to Ed Wilson
18 here, who's our district engineer, and also Paul Patane, along
19 with Paula Brown. These folks are really the linchpins of our
20 relationship with communities across the state, and especially
21 here with the Navajo Nation and its government.

22 So I think Greg will probably be updating you on
23 how we're also strengthening our muscle at ADOT, if you will, on
24 tribal efforts, whether that's Section 106 agreements, on
25 environmental issues or being able to liaison more strongly with

1 the tribes.

2 So the exciting news is that the 2023 legislative
3 session is almost here. I see that former Mayor Price is like a
4 young lion in a cage ready to jump out and start working with
5 these new legislators. The session will kick off on January
6 the 9th, and it will feature a state of the state address by
7 Governor Hobbs, who will be sworn into office on January the
8 5th.

9 The committee lists by the House and Senate were
10 released this week. Your transportation chair is David
11 Farnsworth in the Senate. And then in our House Transportation
12 Chairman Committee will be chaired by Representative Cooke. So
13 I'm sure that Mr. Price has already met with both of those
14 incoming chairmen, but I do want to let everyone else know that
15 it is always good to contact the transportation chairs or your
16 legislators about needs that you have since they are in charge
17 of crafting the budget for the state.

18 Not any bills yet on transportation, but as we've
19 heard from some of the public comments, meetings are taking
20 place with representatives, and so I expect we're going to see
21 bills filed dealing with transportation and infrastructure as we
22 get closer and into the session and start talking about budget.

23 On the federal side, the good news is the
24 government is not going to shut down. The Senate has approved
25 the stopgap funding bill, and there's a general idea that by the

1 end of the federal fiscal year on September 30th, they will
2 approve somewhere in the neighborhood of a 1.7 trillion dollar
3 budget, but we don't have a whole lot of details at -- for that
4 right now.

5 The other news is that there is a notice of
6 funding opportunity for the 2023 RAISE Grant. That is going to
7 be a 1.5 billion dollar pot of money, and so at the department
8 we'll be looking at what options and what assistance we might
9 provide others to pursue funding from that RAISE Grant.

10 Finally, Mr. Chair, I will announce that you
11 noticed that Katy Proctor, our government relations director, is
12 not joining us today --

13 CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: Uh-huh.

14 DIRECTOR HALIKOWSKI: -- because today is her
15 last day at ADOT, and she wanted to send you and the Board a
16 quick note of thanks. And she says: Thank you for welcoming me
17 into this space four years ago, supporting me through all the
18 learning and missteps along the way and teaching me so much
19 about infrastructure in our state. I truly enjoyed my time here
20 at ADOT. The team is full of talent, heart and purpose. You
21 can see it in everything we do here and across our community.
22 While it isn't always easy, everyone here makes a difference,
23 and that is felt throughout the agency.

24 Now, she goes on to say that she's very excited
25 for the next chapter of her life, which is with the City of

1 Maricopa. And so she sincerely hopes that our paths continue to
2 cross, which I'm sure they will in the future. So I just wanted
3 to warn the Board that we now face triple threat between former
4 Mayor Price, current Mayor Smith and now our former governor --
5 government relations director, Katy, who will be going to work
6 with Maricopa.

7 So that concludes my report, Mr. Chair.

8 CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: Thank you, John. We
9 certainly appreciated having worked with Katy as well. She's a
10 very kind individual and always have a good recommendation on
11 beautiful comments to make about each board member. So thank
12 you to her as well.

13 Does any -- any board member have a question for
14 John?

15 BOARD MEMBER: (Inaudible.)

16 CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: There being none -- okay.
17 Gary.

18 VICE CHAIRMAN KNIGHT: John, have we found a
19 replacement for Katy yet?

20 DIRECTOR HALIKOWSKI: At this time, as you know,
21 we're in a transition phase, as one administration, Governor
22 Ducey's administration, is ending, and another one,
23 Governor-Elect Hobbs, is about to begin. So at this point what
24 I've done is some reshuffling within the organization. Anthony
25 Casselman, who's been our government relations and legislative

1 liaison under Katy --

2 CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: Uh-huh.

3 DIRECTOR HALIKOWSKI: -- will be working with the
4 Legislature and the Board. So you'll be meeting Tony soon at
5 the next meeting. He comes to us from the House of
6 Representatives, where he worked as a page. He was also an
7 assistant analyst there, and as research analyst, he spent five
8 years at the House, and he's been with ADOT for I believe now
9 going on three years. So we have his experience overseeing that
10 whole government relations group. At this point is our
11 administrative counsel, which is Stacy Guillen, and Stacy is a
12 former rules attorney from the Senate. She also worked for the
13 last governor's -- Ducey's administration as an assistant legal
14 counsel. So we have a pretty good bench right now, and through
15 transition, we'll just be reshuffling to take care of things.

16 VICE CHAIRMAN KNIGHT: Thank you, sir.

17 CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: Thank you.

18 Any other board member?

19 There being none, let's go on to Item 2,
20 District 2 district report. Ed.

21 MR. WILSON: Good morning, and welcome to Chinle.
22 I'm just thrilled to have the Board come up here and see some of
23 the local issues, so...

24 (Audio interruption) Holbrook in July. So in
25 July we kind of went over all the projects in the whole

1 district, so like instead of -- instead of talking about those
2 projects we're doing right now, let's look at the projects that
3 we've done on the Navajo and Hopi lands since 2017. So that's
4 really what we'll focus on today.

5 So back in 2017, the Laguna Wash Bridge on the
6 US-160 near Dennehotso, that was awarded in March of 2017 for
7 \$620,000. So that project was to correct -- we just replaced
8 the bridge a couple years before that, and we had a lot of
9 issues with the bridge not -- the channel not wanting to be
10 where it was. So that was a scour protection project
11 (inaudible) that bridge. And then the Little Capitan Valley,
12 that was a replacement of the drainage structure at that
13 structure. It was awarded in December of 2017 for \$3.4 million.

14 Next slide.

15 So then the 2018, had the Chinle Wash Bridge.
16 This was a full bridge replacement. It was awarded in March of
17 2018 for \$6.1 million.

18 Next slide.

19 And then -- I'm sorry. Kind of going back and
20 forth. In the 2019, we had the Laguna Wash Bridge on 163.
21 That's just right in Kayenta there. It was awarded in January
22 of 2019 for \$9.5 million. It was a full bridge replacement.
23 And we also had a project on State Route 87 that was awarded in
24 March of 2019 for a million dollars. That was the double
25 application chipseal.

1 And in 2020, we had the three bridges there at
2 the Black Creek and I-40. So it was awarded in February of '20
3 for \$5.7 million, and this replaced the decks on the two bridges
4 over Black Creek, on I-40 and on the adjacent Houck traffic
5 interchange.

6 In 2021, we -- in the 2021, we had the Dinnebito
7 Wash Bridge project that was awarded in February '21 for
8 \$2.6 million. It was a bridge deck replacement. And we also
9 had a pavement preservation project on US-160 from Longhouse
10 Valley to Kayenta. That was a \$12.6 million pavement pres.
11 project.

12 So in -- in 2021, we had the Chinle Wash to
13 Lukachukai Wash. It was the four bridges that were mentioned a
14 little bit earlier today. It was awarded in August of '21 for
15 \$17.5 million, and it was the full bridge replacement of the
16 Lukachukai Wash Bridge and the Agua Sol North Bridge and a deck
17 replacement on the Agua Sol South Bridge and the Chinle Wash
18 Bridge. And then it also included a scour protection slab
19 underneath the Chinle Wash Bridge.

20 Next slide.

21 And then we have the Moenkopi Wash Bridge. This
22 was a deck replacement that was awarded in February '22 for
23 \$3 million. And then we have the Milepost 465 to the New Mexico
24 state line. The project was awarded in April of this year for
25 \$6 million, and it's a pavement life extension to remove the

1 existing friction course and replace the friction course through
2 those sections.

3 Next.

4 And that's Chinle to Black Mountain wash. In
5 2022, the Chinle to Black Mountain Wash project was awarded in
6 March for \$13.8 million. So this is the project that's located
7 just right north of town here. It really includes a five foot
8 widening through the whole stretch, and we did the bus pullouts
9 and those things. We (inaudible) those that they were left out
10 of the contract and had to go back in (inaudible).

11 Next slide.

12 Some more current projects in '22, the Coconino
13 County line to BIA 503 was awarded in July '22 for \$4.3 million.
14 It's a life extension project, which consisted of a one-inch
15 bonded overlay. So that project was currently in winter
16 shutdown. They weren't able to get to that this season yet.

17 Then on the intersection of State Route 264 and
18 IR 4, that project was awarded in September for \$775,000, and it
19 is -- includes a walking path along the edge there, this is
20 because -- somewhat along the lines of that path of that photo
21 is, and that path will have some solar lighting on it. It
22 will -- some of that -- it's kind of -- that will be (inaudible)
23 by the Hopi Tribe, and some intersection lighting as well, so...

24 And then we have the Teesto Wash Bridge that's a
25 full bridge replacement that bids opened last month for

1 \$7.6 million, but it hasn't been awarded yet.

2 Next slide.

3 So the summary is that since 2017, we've had 15
4 total construction projects, a total of about \$95 million as the
5 bid amount, not the total cost of the project, but they
6 actually -- the bid that they opened for.

7 And I'd like to kind of point out the
8 state-funded items, and so the state has a special line item
9 funding for surface street (inaudible) across the state, and
10 since 20-- -- this has really been since 2019 that we're going to
11 look at here, not back to '17. It's the crack seals, fog seals,
12 chipseals, those type of seal coats to protect the pavement. So
13 since that timeline, we've done 795-mile -- lane mile -- and I
14 fall back. I apologize. What we consider a lane mile is a
15 12-foot wide piece of pavement one mile long. So that's the
16 equivalent area of a lane mile that's covered. And for crack
17 sealing, we've done 795 lane miles. Fog sealing, 415. And chip
18 seals, 254. For a total of 1,464 lane miles through the special
19 line item funding for surface treatments.

20 So Mr. Lomayaktewa commented a little bit about
21 Polacca Wash here, and this is the wash on the Hopi Reservation
22 on State Route 264 near Polacca. The wash is about 200-- -- the
23 bridge is about 220 feet long, and on the -- on the right
24 there's the existing cross-section where that bridge was built
25 in the '80s. It had about 12 to almost 20 feet of clear span

1 underneath it, and right now, as you can see, we don't have
2 hardly anything. So we've gone in periodically and have taken
3 some material out from underneath the bridge, but we're really
4 limited to what's in the driveway, and that's a very short-term
5 improvement. It's going to fill right back up as a silt trap.

6 So the Hopi Tribe has been working with the Corps
7 of Engineers. One of the -- one of the results of this, there's
8 really no channel left at all, and so the houses that were near
9 there, there's probably 20 or 30 structures that are flooded
10 pretty regularly now because there's no channel left. So the
11 Hopi Tribe's been working with the Corps of Engineers for kind
12 of a long-term/short-term solution where they're going to be
13 putting in some barriers to protect the houses that are there.
14 Those barriers will -- they're kind of a fold-out structure.
15 They're about four by four by four, and they're just filled with
16 material, and they're -- they're actually going to fill the
17 material from the wash.

18 And then the second part of that that they're
19 working on is to try and get a pilot channel to really develop
20 where the channel should be and hopefully have the silt kind of
21 clean itself back out. But for ADOT, this is something where
22 that partnership with the Corps of Engineers and the tribe --
23 and it's vital, because we're limited because (inaudible) right-
24 of-way, which there's not a lot that we can do with that
25 otherwise.

1 And in closing, I'd just like to thank Chairman
2 Thompson for his service not only on the -- on the -- on the
3 Board here, but the -- all his time at Navajo County, and for
4 me, he's been a pleasure to work with for everything for many,
5 many years. So thank you for your service, sir.

6 Any questions?

7 CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: As you can see that
8 (inaudible) went back several years ago. When I came on the
9 Board, we had a meeting at -- in Moenkopi, Legacy Inn, and many
10 tribal members, Navajo, as well as Hopi, they came together and
11 pointed out the various concerns they had on these roads within
12 Apache, Navajo and Coconino Counties, and they brought up some
13 of those projects that were mentioned at that time. Some of
14 those have been completed. So that's why it kind of went back,
15 that we are just as concerned and are being mindful of many of
16 the projects that you bring to this board.

17 So again, does any board member have a question?

18 Again, thank you very much, Ed.

19 MR. WILSON: And thank you to the Board. And I'd
20 also like to thank the Many Farms Chapter for picking the Board
21 up yesterday and showing them some of the issues that they have
22 locally. So thank you very much.

23 VICE CHAIRMAN KNIGHT: And thank you for coming
24 out last night and bailing us out.

25 MR. WILSON: My pleasure (inaudible).

1 CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: We will now move on to
2 Item 3, consent agenda. Does any member want any item removed
3 from the agenda?

4 There being none, do I have a motion to approve
5 the consent agenda as presented with an amendment?

6 MR. SEARLE: So moved.

7 VICE CHAIRMAN KNIGHT: Mr. Chair, I would move to
8 approve the motioned consent agenda as amended.

9 MR. SEARLE: Second.

10 CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: Okay. Got a motion by Gary
11 and then second by Mr. Searle, Richard. Any discussion?

12 All in favor say aye.

13 BOARD MEMBERS: Aye.

14 CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: Any opposed?

15 Floyd, conduct roll call.

16 MR. ROEHRICH: Board Member Daniels.

17 MS. DANIELS: Aye.

18 MR. ROEHRICH: Board Member Meck.

19 MR. MECK: Aye.

20 MR. ROEHRICH: Chairman, the motion carries.

21 CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: Motions carries.

22 With that let's go on to item -- Agenda Item 4.
23 This is for information only. It's Kristine Ward, financial
24 report, please.

25 MS. WARD: Good morning, board members. So I'd

1 first, if you don't mind, Chairman Thompson, I just want to
2 mention, it has -- it has been a pleasure serving you during
3 your tenure on the Board, and I have very much appreciated
4 watching your very compassionate and thoughtful leadership. So
5 I just wanted to get that out there before I get into my very
6 short report, and I didn't want to skip over that, but it's been
7 a pleasure, sir.

8 It looks like my slides are in reverse order, and
9 I should be going backwards here. Could we go to the -- yeah
10 the front part of the -- there we -- there we go. Let's go with
11 the Highway User Revenue Fund first.

12 So I am quite happy to report that there is very
13 little to report here. We are to within our target range.
14 We've come into our target range. So we have forecasted to
15 collect 1,750,000,000 in HURF revenues in FY '23, and we are on
16 track, having collected 686 million year to date. Year to date
17 through November.

18 If you go to the next slide, what that next slide
19 covers is the individual categories, that breakdown of the
20 revenues for November. Again, for the month of November, we
21 were just a -- actuals were a titch above forecast. Nothing
22 significant to report here.

23 If we move on to the Regional Area Road Fund,
24 likewise, like HURF, we have come in -- we are within forecast
25 range, running a little ahead of forecast at 1.3 percent, with

1 year-to-date revenues collected of \$231 million. We are
2 forecasted for total revenues for the year in RARF, we're
3 forecasting 720 million. So we're right on pace.

4 Moving on, you'll see again the individual
5 categories for the month of October. This just shows you for
6 the month of October as opposed to year to date, and actuals
7 came in over forecast of about 4.1 percent.

8 With that, I actually have nothing further to
9 report. I'm just very appreciative that we've -- looks like our
10 forecasts are right on pace. So nothing else to report. I'd be
11 happy to take any questions.

12 CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: Do any board members have any
13 questions for Kristine?

14 There being none, let's go on to item -- Agenda
15 Item 5 with Paul Patane.

16 Paul.

17 MR. PATANE: Good morning, Chairman Thompson,
18 Board Members. I'm Paul Patane, Multimodal Planning Division.
19 Just want to give you our update. (Inaudible.) Thank you.

20 So some of the activities I'll provide an update
21 on is the SR-88 Apache Trail. Included is a bullet point of the
22 development schedule for the new five-year program. Also, our
23 tribal transportation update, along with some update on public
24 comments that we received from last November's meeting.

25 Next slide, please.

1 So the SR-88, this is the -- near the Fish Creek
2 Hill overlook. It's a seven-mile segment that's currently
3 closed.

4 Next slide, please.

5 So the project scope is to evaluate the current
6 conditions of the roadway and structures. The design concept
7 report with developed recommendations for upslope stabilization,
8 develop recommendations for roadway drainage improvements and
9 protection of historical structures. Identify an overview of
10 the environmental requirements. And the deliverables for this
11 project scope was -- will be a design concept, which is about a
12 15 to 30 percent design, along with an environment overview.

13 BOARD MEMBER: Paul, are we continuing to -- this
14 is currently a dirt road, correct? Or a gravel road?

15 MR. PATANE: Correct. Portions of it.

16 BOARD MEMBER: Portions. Do we intend to keep it
17 as a gravel road, or is there a discussion to improve it?

18 MR. PATANE: Well, we'll let the DCR dictate the
19 alternatives, but the seven-mile segment and (inaudible).

20 BOARD MEMBER: Okay. Thank you.

21 MR. PATANE: So the schedule, this is the
22 schedule received by our consultant who's on board. He's issued
23 the notice to proceed. So we're looking at having the final
24 report in June, but we'll have (inaudible) recommendations in
25 the March/April time frame.

1 DIRECTOR HALIKOWSKI: Mr. Chairman, before he
2 goes on.

3 CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: Go ahead, John.

4 DIRECTOR HALIKOWSKI: I would just like to quell
5 a rumor and state publicly in the board meeting on SR-88, there
6 seems to be a rumor that ADOT's trying to give the road away,
7 and although that has sort of diminished as a rumor, I just want
8 to say that ADOT fully intends to maintain ownership and
9 maintain SR-88 in the future. So just wanted to make that clear
10 to everyone.

11 BOARD MEMBER: Mr. Chair.

12 CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: (Inaudible.)

13 BOARD MEMBER: Mr. Chair, Director Halikowski,
14 thank you for that comment, because obviously we been bombarded
15 recently with some concerned citizens about us getting rid of --
16 trying to divest from the -- you know, the State's
17 responsibility for SR-88. So I appreciate you clarifying that
18 and staying on top of it.

19 MS. DANIELS: (Inaudible.)

20 CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: Paul.

21 MR. PATANE: Okay. The next item.

22 MS. DANIELS: Chair Thompson, I'm sorry. If I
23 may comment on SR-88 as well.

24 CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: Go ahead.

25 MS. DANIELS: Thank you.

1 There is a small group that meets fairly
2 regularly to discuss State Route 88 and the construction
3 activities there. I know Katy Proctor had attended previously.
4 I might just flag that as something that would be a really -- I
5 think that's the place to sort of dispel any of those types of
6 rumors, would be with that smaller group that's been advocating
7 for quite some time to upgrade and to reopen State Route 88.
8 And so I would just ask or request that someone from ADOT
9 continue to attend those SR-88 meetings held by some of the
10 county supervisors in Pinal, but also citizens who have a
11 financial and/or recreational interest in the area.

12 DIRECTOR HALIKOWSKI: Thank you. And to that
13 point, Mr. Chairman, Tony Casselman, who is our legislative
14 liaison, was at the last meeting, and as Katy was departing, she
15 made note as we met yesterday on all of her issues. We will
16 continue to attend those meetings and fully intend to quell any
17 rumors that ADOT's divesting itself of the property. I'll also
18 be preparing a letter to that effect. So we understand that
19 that's a good place to do it, but the reason I did it here is I
20 wanted to state it publicly for the Board's record and have it
21 in the Board's minutes. Thank you.

22 CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: Okay. Thank you, John.
23 Paul, continue.

24 MR. PATANE: Thank you, Chairman Thompson.

25 Next item is the 2024-2028 Five-Year

1 Transportation Facility Construction Program anticipated
2 development schedule. So the next few months, December to
3 January, staff will be developing the draft tentative program.
4 Then in the February study session, we'll present the program to
5 the Board. We'll present it to the Transportation Board in the
6 February meeting to approve the tentative five-year program for
7 public comment. Then March through May would be the public
8 comment period, with the public hearing meeting in May. This
9 will be followed up by the study session in June. Then we'll
10 present to the board meeting in June the final approval of the
11 five-year program.

12 Next slide, please.

13 So I'll give some of my tribal transportation
14 updates. The first one is related to the 2022 legislative
15 appropriation -- appropriated projects for Navajo Route 9402,
16 and which received the \$10 million from the capital outlay
17 appropriation. The Navajo Route N35, which we received
18 \$6 million.

19 The purpose of the meeting was to meet both with
20 the tribal representatives, MPD staff, government relations
21 (inaudible). The meeting was to go over what we call the
22 pass-through process, where on some of the legislative
23 appropriations, these funds are just passed through ADOT and
24 given directly to the local agency, and so we -- it was a
25 successful meeting. We anticipate the IGA, intergovernmental

1 agreement, to be executed later this month in December.

2 Next slide, please.

3 So this was related to the America Walks Policy
4 Roundtable on tribal pedestrian safety. This was a roundtable
5 event attended by a tribal liaison, Don Sneed, and with the
6 focus of the meeting with the roundtable was to discuss, you
7 know, impacts of high-speed highways, (inaudible) pedestrian
8 safety and community (inaudible) in the tribal communities. So
9 it was a successful workshop, and they continue to have more of
10 these, but it was well attended by over 30 participants from
11 across the (inaudible).

12 Next slide, please.

13 This is the Intertribal Council of Arizona Tribal
14 Liaison Support and Transportation Working Group. The objective
15 of this project is to improve the consultation, coordination and
16 cooperation between ADOT and the tribes in Arizona. ITCA and
17 MPD conduct Transportation Working Group to provide information
18 to the tribes in Arizona and provide feedback of any concerns of
19 the tribe.

20 We held the first meeting for the year -- the new
21 fiscal year was just this past -- yesterday, actually, and so
22 some of the items that were going to be discussed were an
23 overview, USDOT Tribal Transportation Program Safety Funds.
24 That was presented by Adam Larsen from FHWA, and also discussion
25 was on Mohave Road Safety Project that's in the Colorado River

1 Indian Tribe Reservation within the Parker area.

2 Next slide, please.

3 And so I just wanted to spend real quick a couple
4 minutes on highlighting this project. Within -- it's within the
5 Southwest District, La Paz County, within the Colorado River
6 Indian Reservation. They were successful last year, 2022,
7 receiving a RAISE Grant of approximately \$24.9 million. This
8 was for a pavement improvement project along Mohave Road, and
9 some of the improvements included street lighting, signage, turn
10 lanes, along with some other additional intersection
11 improvements. This was just a big way that, you know, these
12 opportunities for Raise Grants and not just for local agencies,
13 state government, but are also available for the tribal
14 communities as well.

15 MR. MAXWELL: Mr. Chair.

16 CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: Ted.

17 MR. MAXWELL: Mr. Chair, thank you.

18 Paul, got a quick question, because there's a
19 reference to some other potential grant application (inaudible).
20 What kind of role and advocacy does ADOT take to support these
21 type of grant applications?

22 MR. PATANE: Well, typically, when we provide
23 support, a lot of the local communities ask for our support for
24 the -- say, for example, their Raise Grants. They recently have
25 come in with a letter of support (inaudible) we provide

1 (inaudible), and there's also been -- I know Dr. Carr
2 (phonetic), our grants program manager, regularly takes call and
3 helps local governments with different questions on grant
4 application process, things like that.

5 DIRECTOR HALIKOWSKI: Mr. Chair, if I could also
6 add to that --

7 CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: John.

8 DIRECTOR HALIKOWSKI: -- point that Paul's
9 making, Secretary Buttigieg of USDOT recently tasked all of his
10 district administrators with assisting and helping in tribal
11 grants applications, technical issues for projects. So really,
12 what we want to work here is a partnership between ADOT, FHWA
13 and the tribes as we look at needed projects and have all three
14 entities working together to put together grant applications
15 that have a better chance of success. So look forward to
16 working more with FHWA on that, but I think you're going to see
17 them take a larger role in technical assistance to the tribes.

18 MR. MAXWELL: Thank you, Director.

19 CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: I and the Board certainly do
20 agree partnering up with the various agencies does a lot moving
21 to work some -- be successful to some of these projects, and I
22 know that Paul and Ed have -- they have indicated to (inaudible)
23 that they are willing to meet to further get the information out
24 to the public. If you want to meet, they're willing to do that
25 again. Thank you, Paul.

1 MR. PATANE: Thank you, Chairman Thompson.

2 So I want to highlight this other (inaudible).

3 The announcement came out on November 30th. The U.S. Department
4 of Transportation Federal Highway Administration announced
5 cooperative agreements re-establishing the Regional Tribal
6 Technical Assistance Program Centers. These centers will assist
7 tribal communities as they seek access in Tribal Transportation
8 Program funding made available by IIJA and other federal funding
9 opportunities. FHWA's moved from a centralized technical
10 assistance model to -- back to a regional technical assistance
11 model where this was -- because they were all centrally located,
12 and now they're breaking it back into regions.

13 And this was -- this action was taken based on --
14 from 13 listening sessions over seven months and input from
15 tribal stakeholders through a Federal Register Notice Request
16 For Information. Regional centers will ultimately serve 12
17 Bureau of Indian Affairs regions and associated tribes and meet
18 the transportation, training and education needs of Native
19 American communities, building skills and expertise to ensure
20 the safety and maintenance of the tribal roads.

21 Because of limited resources, this will allow the
22 tribes to successfully compete for federal infrastructure
23 funding and administer and manage transportation programs and
24 serve the needs of their tribal communities. So breaking it
25 into the regionals are going to be a big success, and those are

1 the regional offices. And what we can do is once we get more
2 information available, we can share that (inaudible).

3 Next slide, please.

4 Just a quick (inaudible) the request from the
5 Board to update them on public comments received from -- in this
6 case from the November Transportation Board meeting.

7 On the first one, as you heard, Ms. Thompson,
8 SR-97, Freeport-McMoRan Bagdad, Incorporated. She did a pretty
9 good update for me, and so right now we do have two
10 intergovernmental agreements with Freeport-McMoRan. One is for
11 design and construction. They're funding the design and
12 construction of the realignment of SR-97. The other one is for
13 grant support, and it is -- as Ms. Thompson alluded to, the
14 focus right now because of the RAISE Grant (inaudible)
15 officially and with the deadline of February 28th, they're
16 focusing on -- hard on the RAISE Grant applications.

17 Then another comment made was from Mr. Price,
18 President and CEO of Maricopa County Transportation and Economic
19 Development. This question was related to the tier two for the
20 Interstate 11 corridor. And so the update on the I-11 corridor
21 is we are currently working on the scope of work. We anticipate
22 to do the called for statement of qualifications for consultants
23 the later part of January.

24 Then also from last month's meeting was from
25 Mr. Kee Allen Begay, Junior, from the Navajo Council delegate,

1 Many Farms Chapter. As you heard earlier, we had a very
2 successful meeting last night. A lot of interesting (inaudible)
3 we discussed from drainage to intersection lighting, collecting
4 accident data. So we feel we've strengthened our partnership
5 and look forward to the path ahead.

6 And I just want to thank you, Chairman, on behalf
7 of MPD staff. We just wanted to thank you, Chairman Thompson,
8 for all your support in our tribal planning and coordination
9 efforts and acknowledge you for your advocacy for improving the
10 quality of life for all tribal communities here in Arizona.
11 Thank you, sir.

12 CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: Thank you, Paul.

13 Again, (inaudible) under the leadership of John,
14 Floyd, I think we've gotten quite a bit of ways in being
15 transparent, being able to address many of the issues. We might
16 not have all the money in the world, but to begin these
17 discussions, how to move forward on your concerns and how to get
18 to where we want to be, maybe not now, but maybe sometime down
19 the road. So with that, again, thank you, Paul.

20 Any questions for Paul?

21 Okay. That -- there being none, let's -- we'll
22 go on to Item 6, PPAC items with Paul Patane. (Inaudible.)

23 MR. PATANE: Thank you, Mr. Chairman Thompson,
24 Board Members. (Audio interruption.) FY 2023-2027
25 Transportation (inaudible) for project modification. I'm sorry.

1 Item 6A.

2 CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: Is there a motion to approve
3 PPAC project modifications Item 6A as presented?

4 MR. MAXWELL: So moved.

5 VICE CHAIRMAN KNIGHT: Second.

6 CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: Ted, the motion, and second
7 by Gary. Any discussion?

8 All in favor say aye.

9 BOARD MEMBERS: Aye.

10 CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: Any opposed?

11 Floyd, conduct roll call.

12 MR. ROEHRICH: Board Member Daniels.

13 MS. DANIELS: Aye.

14 MR. ROEHRICH: Board Member Meck.

15 MR. MECK: Aye.

16 MR. ROEHRICH: Chairman, the motion carries.

17 CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: Motion carries. Thank you
18 for the couple of board members that's online. Appreciate your
19 participation.

20 Let's go on to item -- the next item, Paul.

21 MR. PATANE: Thank you, Chairman Thompson and
22 Board Members.

23 For your consideration, the changes to the FY
24 2023-2027 (audio interruption) Items 6B through 6N projects.

25 CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: Move to approve PPAC new

1 projects Items 6B through 6N as presented?

2 VICE CHAIRMAN KNIGHT: So moved.

3 CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: Motion by Gary.

4 MR. MAXWELL: Second.

5 CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: Second by Ted. Any
6 discussion?

7 All in favor say aye.

8 BOARD MEMBERS: Aye.

9 CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: Any opposed?

10 Floyd, conduct roll call.

11 MR. ROEHRICH: Board Member Daniels.

12 MS. DANIELS: Aye.

13 MR. ROEHRICH: Board Member Meck.

14 MR. MECK: Aye.

15 MR. ROEHRICH: The motion carries.

16 CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: Motion carries.

17 Go on down to the next item.

18 MR. PATANE: This is Item 60. This will require
19 two parts to the motion. So if I may, Chairman Thompson, Item 0
20 is related to the modifications for the 2023-2027 Airport
21 Capital Improvement Program. Additional funding from (audio
22 interruption) appropriations was 20.6 million additional dollars
23 added to the program, along with additional funding from the
24 State Aviation Fund.

25 In the airport program for the state and local

1 grant projects, there is typically 90 percent State fund to 10
2 percent local match. This is in accordance with State
3 Transportation Board Policy Chapter 39, Airport Development
4 Program Policy, Section 1B. It states that the Transportation
5 Board may fund the eligible project's cost up to 90 percent of
6 the eligible costs at commercial service, reliever and general
7 aviation community and rural airport at a maximum of 95 percent
8 (inaudible).

9 So our recommendation is for the projects as
10 shown in yellow is to fund the projects from the capital outlay
11 appropriation at 100 percent, because they typically require, as
12 I mentioned, a 10 percent match, but like we did similar to last
13 year, we waived the match requirement because some of the
14 matching is the challenges from the locals -- local communities.

15 Then the projects in orange, those were projects
16 added, and those were using the state aviation funds, and those
17 will -- projects will require the typical local match as
18 required.

19 CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: Is there a motion to approve
20 airport development project Item 60 as presented?

21 MR. MAXWELL: So moved.

22 MR. SEARLE: Second.

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

25 MR. SEARLE: A question, if I may.

1 CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: Yes, Richard.

2 MR. SEARLE: This clarification, again, Paul, the
3 highlighted in yellow is what is recommending to add with no
4 grant -- no local contribution?

5 MR. PATANE: Yes. Those projects are currently
6 in the program (inaudible) the local contribution.

7 MR. SEARLE: And Douglas Municipal Airport, I
8 heard discussion that -- one time that the City was going to try
9 to do away with that. I mean, has there been any (audio
10 interruption)?

11 MR. PATANE: Chair Thompson (audio interruption)
12 waive the State Transportation Board Policy prior to (audio
13 interruption).

14 MR. ROEHRICH: So, Mr. Chairman (audio
15 interruption) motion to approve, and then they can -- we approve
16 the motion as presented.

17 BOARD MEMBER: Okay. Thank you.

18 CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: Okay. So there's (audio
19 interruption).

20 MR. ROEHRICH: So Mr. Chair (audio interruption).

21 MR. MAXWELL: Mr. Chair, I'll gladly withdraw
22 that motion.

23 MR. SEARLE: I'll withdraw the second.

24 CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: Very good. (Audio
25 interruption.)

1 MR. MAXWELL: I just have a couple issues before
2 we get down to the specific motion. So on the one (audio
3 interruption) page 273, we have the dollars broken out over the
4 five years of fiscal year '23 to '27. Yet (audio interruption)
5 currently (audio interruption) currently (audio interruption)?

6 MR. PATANE: Board Member -- Chairman Thompson,
7 Board Member Maxwell, the changes were made are to the FY '23 --
8 (Audio interruption.)

9 MR. BYRES: Mr. Chairman, Board Member Maxwell,
10 for aviation by itself, it is a one-year program. It is not a
11 five-year program. So (audio interruption) five are just
12 projections, but that's simply what it is. So -- but we only
13 program one year. The upcoming fiscal year.

14 MR. MAXWELL: Okay. Thank you.
15 (Audio interruption.)

16 BOARD MEMBER: That was tongue-in-cheek.

17 DIRECTOR HALIKOWSKI: Just a little sarcasm
18 there, Greg.

19 CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: Okay. Paul.

20 MR. PATANE: Board Member Thompson, (audio
21 interruption) there is a project (audio interruption).

22 MR. MAXWELL: (Audio interruption.)

23 MR. PATANE: So Chairman Thompson, Board Members,
24 for your consideration (audio interruption) Airport Capital
25 Improvement Program as presented.

1 CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: (Audio interruption) motion?

2 MR. MAXWELL: Mr. Chair, I'd move that we (audio
3 interruption) as presented.

4 MR. SEARLE: Second.

5 CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: Any further discussion?

6 MR. MAXWELL: Mr. Chair (audio interruption)
7 throughout the (audio interruption) of this matching
8 requirement, because for those smaller airfields, which do get
9 used quite often by people for a lot of the various reasons,
10 they couldn't do it without the waiver of that, particularly for
11 the smaller locations.

12 BOARD MEMBER: And on point on that one, the
13 funding for the Tombstone Municipal, Tombstone is -- this has
14 been there for a number years, but they have never been able to
15 come up with the grant, their side of the portion. So it's good
16 to see it.

17 CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: (Audio interruption) item at
18 this time. All in favor say aye.

19 BOARD MEMBERS: Aye.

20 CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: Any opposed?

21 Floyd, conduct roll call.

22 MR. ROEHRICH: Board Member Daniels.

23 MS. DANIELS: Aye.

24 MR. ROEHRICH: Board Member Meck.

25 MR. MECK: Aye.

1 MR. ROEHRICH: Chairman, the motion carries.

2 CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: Motion carries, and let's go
3 on to Agenda Item 7.

4 BOARD MEMBER: Do we have a second, Mr. Chair?
5 Do we have a second? I think we have to vote on (inaudible)
6 take two motions.

7 BOARD MEMBER: (Inaudible.)

8 BOARD MEMBER: I mean, did -- I didn't hear in
9 the motion that that was approval as well. Just I thought it
10 was a waiver, and if it was, my apologies.

11 CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: I guess we can go ahead and
12 just make the motion second (inaudible). Is that (inaudible)
13 correctly? Okay. Say it again.

14 MR. PATANE: This will be -- you want a separate
15 one for the budgets then?

16 BOARD MEMBER: Please.

17 MR. PATANE: Chairman Thompson, Board Members,
18 for your consideration, project changes to the FY '23 Airport
19 Capital Improvement Program as presented.

20 CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: Do I hear a motion?

21 VICE CHAIRMAN KNIGHT: So moved.

22 MR. SEARLE: I guess I'll be the official second
23 today. Second.

24 CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: Motion by Gary, second by
25 Richard. 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 Daniels. Board

6 Member Daniels.

7 Board Member Meck.

8 MR. MECK: Aye.

9 MR. ROEHRICH: Board Member Daniels, one more
10 time.

11 Chairman, the motion carries.

12 CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: Motion carries.

13 We will now move on to Item 7.

14 BOARD MEMBER: Thank you, Chairman Thompson.

15 Sorry for the confusion (inaudible).

16 CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: Well, as long as we get it
17 right.

18 Greg Byres, State engineer's Report.

19 MR. BYRES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Board
20 Members.

21 We're going to start off with -- as part of the
22 state engineer's report, we do have 105 projects under
23 construction for \$2.2 billion. Ten projects have been finalized
24 in November. That's worth \$81.8 million, and fiscal year to
25 date, we have finalized out 35 projects.

1 I have a couple other comments I want to kind of
2 add before we go on.

3 The first one is comments that were made last
4 month (audio interruption) board meeting. The first one (audio
5 interruption) had concerns on the (audio interruption)
6 construction development and operations (audio interruption)
7 have got together with (audio interruption) Maricopa Association
8 of Governments (audio interruption) discuss the options that are
9 (audio interruption).

10 The other items that we had last month was a
11 councilmember from Flagstaff (audio interruption) Salas had
12 brought forth some issues on flooding that had occurred this
13 past summer on US-89 as well as US (audio interruption) that
14 time, I believe the Northcentral District, our district
15 administrator, Brenden Foley, has been working very closely with
16 the City of Flagstaff as well as with Coconino County to (audio
17 interruption) a means of trying to make sure that, one,
18 potential of flooding in the future can be mitigated, as well as
19 taking care of damage that was -- occurred both on 189 and 180.

20 On 89 itself, there's been a massive amount of
21 cleanup that has been -- had to occur in order to take care of a
22 lot of the sediment that came down due to the fires and the
23 floods that occurred. We had a two-week stretch this past
24 summer where we basically had rain every day and could not get
25 in to take care of the sediment (audio interruption) blocked a

1 major culvert, and sometimes (inaudible) we have water
2 overtopping that highway every day for two weeks. So since that
3 time, we've been able to get in, clean that out, clean the
4 sediment out and take care of the issues within our right-
5 of-way.

6 On 180, we had an issue there where we have a box
7 culvert going underneath 180. It then ties in to a storm drain
8 that is the -- it's a 10-by-10 box culvert. It ties in to a
9 storm drain that is 48-inch diameter, that goes a short distance
10 and then ties in to another storm drain that is 36-inch
11 diameter, and then goes down a little bit further before it
12 terminates out into the Rio de Flag waterway. Obviously we
13 can't force that much water into those small culverts or
14 actually storm drains.

15 So what the city and the county as well as with
16 ADOT has done is looked for a secondary path to be able to route
17 that water. We're currently in the process of putting together
18 that final design, as well as the construction funding to be
19 able to build up that structure. So that would help protect all
20 of the residents that were affected this past summer by that
21 runoff (audio interruption). It basically overtopped the
22 roadway, ran down the road and (audio interruption) so -- is
23 what was happening this past summer. So we're trying to take
24 care of that. So it's in the works.

25 The last item I had was Daryl Ahasteen had

1 addressed the Board about the Sanders out to -- moving the port
2 of entry from Sanders out to (audio interruption). That as well
3 as bringing forth a -- some additional documentation this month
4 for (audio interruption) work, and so we're -- we need to
5 analyze that information before we can do anything. There is
6 one very large concern that we have in moving that port to
7 making sure that it stays secure. So we need to see what -- how
8 and what the final plan would be to -- before we could address
9 that (inaudible).

10 CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: So, Greg, I know that the
11 Board is very appreciative of the fact (audio interruption) try
12 to get back to those people that have a concern on certain
13 projects (inaudible). Were you able to get back to them (audio
14 interruption).

15 Ted?

16 MR. MAXWELL: Mr. Chair, thank you. I second
17 that. I think it's (audio interruption) our Board needs to have
18 both Greg and Paul address some of the issues that were brought
19 up previously.

20 I also want to -- Member Daniels had reached out
21 to telling me that she's experiencing some problems with delays,
22 and that's the reason it's hard -- she was a definite aye on the
23 airport action. Good to hear.

24 And I have one question, Greg. Have you been
25 able to do any assessment of the grant that Mr. Ahasteen had

1 mentioned they've applied for with regards to that Pinta Road?
2 Have we taken a look at what they're applying for and do we have
3 a position from ADOT staff on if that's a grant that would be
4 helpful or could potentially create problems?

5 MR. BYRES: Well, any grant that brings
6 additional dollars in to the State of Arizona is helpful. In
7 this particular case, the movement of the port of entry is just
8 a portion of what is overall proposed. So any kind of
9 development in that area is certainly an economic boom for the
10 nation as well as for the community. So (audio interruption) I
11 do not, and I don't know that ADOT has been asked to (audio
12 interruption) that, but if we are or if we have been, we most
13 certainly (inaudible).

14 DIRECTOR HALIKOWSKI: Well, to that point,
15 Mr. Chairman, I just want to make a couple of comments. One
16 is that grants don't often cover the full cost of any project,
17 and typically, there are matching funds that are required. And
18 those have to come from state funds, not (audio interruption)
19 federal and (audio interruption) you know, we have looked into
20 costs (audio interruption) rebuilding ports in the past that,
21 you know (audio interruption) with all of the attendant
22 technology and other facility aspects. So that does come out of
23 the program somewhere. So again, it has to balance against all
24 the other projects that we're being asked to fund.

25 MR. MAXWELL: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you

1 for that clarification, Director and Greg. Thank you.

2 MR. BYRES: Continuing on with Item 8. We do
3 have -- or we did have a single project that was on the consent
4 agenda. Thank you very much for approving that.

5 And we will go through (audio interruption)
6 detail on several (audio interruption). This is a replacement
7 on SR-87, the Teesto Wash Bridge. It within this current
8 district. The low bid was \$7,622,074. The State's estimate was
9 8 million (audio interruption).

10 In the bidding of this project, ADOT has utilized
11 an electronic bidding process, it's called Bidx, for the past
12 several years, and it's worked very well. Contractors like it,
13 as well as ADOT likes it because it is -- one, it's very secure,
14 and two, it is a much easier process and much more even process
15 for bidders to utilize.

16 However, in this particular case, Bidx had
17 experienced a -- what they're calling a period of performance
18 degradation. This occurred within an hour of when the bids were
19 due for this particular project. There were five bidders on
20 this project. However, only four bids were received just prior
21 to the degradation -- this period of degradation. There was one
22 that was received during this period. We were unaware of it at
23 that -- at the time of the reading, so only four bids were read.

24 The contractor that -- his bid did not come
25 through followed the specification to the T on what happens if

1 this occurred. He made all the phone calls to ADOT. He
2 contacted Bidx. He did everything he was supposed to do,
3 documented it meticulously, and as it turns out, we -- Bidx
4 received his bid through a redundant system, and it maintained
5 that security of that bid. That was determined about four days
6 after the reading of the original bids.

7 With that and because the bid was secure, the
8 contractor had followed all protocols, we took and accepted that
9 bid. We reread all five bids the following week and came
10 through -- through the process, it turns out that the one (audio
11 interruption) bid that had the issues. So as such we are asking
12 for postponement of this, because the protest period will not --
13 has not been completed yet. So at this time -- it actually
14 finishes out today. So at this time we're recommending
15 postponing this, bringing it back next month, provided there are
16 no protests. So we bring this forward with a recommendation for
17 postponement.

18 VICE CHAIRMAN KNIGHT: Mr. Chair, I did have one
19 question for Greg. So when you say secure, just for
20 clarification for the contractors and the public, he was not
21 aware of any of the other four bids. When his was finally
22 opened four days later -- I mean, he got his bid in securely
23 before he would have ever had a chance to see the other bids?

24 MR. BYRES: That is correct, Chairman, Board
25 Member Knight. So when the bidders submit their bids, it's

1 encrypted. No one can see it. Okay? So in this particular
2 case, it went into the redundant system. It remained encrypted
3 until the second reading when it was decrypted so that we could
4 read the (inaudible).

5 VICE CHAIR KNIGHT: Thank you. And I think
6 that's important for not only the other contractors that are
7 bidding so that they know that nobody can see their bids and
8 also for the public for clarification. Thank you. Thank you,
9 Greg. Thank you, Mr. Chair. And I will move to postpone as
10 recommended.

11 MR. SEARLE: I'll second.

12 CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: There is a motion by Gary to
13 postpone Item 8A as presented, second by Board Member Richard.
14 Any further discussion?

15 All in favor say aye.

16 BOARD MEMBERS: Aye.

17 CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: Any opposed?

18 Floyd, conduct roll call.

19 MR. ROEHRICH: Board Member Daniels.

20 Board Member Meck.

21 MR. MECK: Aye.

22 MR. ROEHRICH: Mr. Chairman, I see Board Member
23 Daniels looks as if she might have been dropped off the system.
24 I don't see her on the panelist list anymore, but the motion
25 carries.

1 CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: Okay. Motion carries on
2 Item 8A. Go on down to Item 8B.

3 MR. BYRES: Thank you.

4 Mr. Chairman, this is an ITS improvement project
5 for the City of Buckeye. It's on Yuma Road and Verado Way. The
6 low bid for the project -- by the way, there was five bidders
7 for this project. The low bid was \$1,222,201. The State's
8 estimate was \$1,047,481. A difference of \$174,720, or 16.7
9 percent.

10 The big difference on this was the cost of the
11 electrical cabinet as well as -- or I'm sorry -- conduit, fiber
12 optic that's required for it, as well as all the pull boxes.
13 With this, the increase of \$174,720, there is an IGA with --
14 that utilizes our estimate to the City of Buckeye. At this
15 point in time, the City of Buckeye does not see them being able
16 to provide the additional funding. So we are recommending
17 rejecting all bids.

18 CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: Is there a motion to reject
19 all items -- Items 8B as presented?

20 VICE CHAIR KNIGHT: So moved.

21 CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: Second?

22 MR. SEARLE: I guess I'll do it.

23 CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: Okay. Motion by Gary and
24 second by Richard. Any discussion?

25 MR. MAXWELL: Mr. Chair.

1 CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: Ted.

2 MR. MAXWELL: Greg, just for my knowledge, what
3 kind of increase is this in the requirements for the City of
4 Buckeye based on the increased costs?

5 MR. BYRES: That 16 percent is the increase.

6 MR. MAXWELL: Oh, so they have to come up with
7 the entire --

8 MR. BYRES: Yes.

9 MR. MAXWELL: I understand. Thank you. Thank
10 you, Greg. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

11 CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: All in favor say aye.

12 BOARD MEMBERS: Aye.

13 CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: Any opposed?

14 Floyd, conduct roll call.

15 BOARD MEMBER: I was thinking maybe you wanted to
16 second.

17 MR. ROEHRICH: Board Member Meck.

18 MR. MECK: Aye.

19 MR. ROEHRICH: And Board Member Daniels.

20 MR. MAXWELL: And Mr. Chair, this is Ted. Member
21 Daniels is currently kicked off, trying to get back in, and she
22 said now it's just spinning on her.

23 CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: Floyd?

24 MR. ROEHRICH: The motion carries (audio
25 interruption).

1 CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: The motion carries?

2 MR. ROEHRICH: Yes, sir. The motion carries,
3 realizing that Board Member Daniels is having technical
4 difficulties. And I understand. My screen keeps going blank
5 every few seconds or so. It just keeps flickering off and on,
6 so there are some connective -- connectivity issues, obviously,
7 but the motion does carry with the members that are present.

8 CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: Okay. Good.

9 Item 8C.

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

11 This is a bike and pedestrian improvement
12 project on Idaho Road from Superstition Boulevard to McKellips
13 Road. The low bid -- there was two bidders on this project.
14 The low bid was \$2,125,288. The State's estimate was
15 \$1,241,707, a difference of \$883,581, or 71.2 percent.

16 The big difference that we saw in this was the
17 cost of the removal of asphaltic concrete pavement, as well as
18 roadway excavation, aggregate base. There was several
19 electrical poles, light poles as well as conductors and conduit,
20 concrete, curb and gutter and sidewalk were all issues.

21 This particular project is very, very tight
22 quarters along the roadway. The contractor cannot get heavy
23 equipment or large heavy equipment in there. He's having to use
24 very small equipment or hand work in this particular case. So
25 consequently, the cost went up extensively.

1 On the electrical, the cost of the electrical
2 items was considerably higher than what was estimated. It's
3 something that we've been seeing over the last couple months.
4 The cost of electrical is going up considerably, much more than
5 what we can anticipate.

6 So after analyzing the bid itself and going
7 through the review, we have determined that the bid is
8 responsible and responsive and we would recommend award to Combs
9 Construction Company, Inc.

10 CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: Is there a motion to award
11 Item 8C to Combs Construction Company, Inc., as presented?

12 MR. SEARLE: Chair, so moved.

13 CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: Richard, the motion.

14 MR. MAXWELL: Second.

15 CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: Second by Ted. Any
16 discussion?

17 BOARD MEMBER: Quick question, Chairman Thompson.
18 Greg, this is also a local project, so I'm assuming the City of
19 Apache Junction is going to make up the difference?

20 MR. BYRES: Correct.

21 BOARD MEMBER: And they have no problem doing so?

22 MR. BYRES: Correct.

23 BOARD MEMBER: Thank you.

24 CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: Any discussion further?

25 All in favor say aye.

1 BOARD MEMBERS: Aye.

2 CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: Any opposed?

3 Floyd, conduct roll call.

4 MR. ROEHRICH: Board Member Meck.

5 MR. MECK: Aye.

6 MR. ROEHRICH: Chairman, with the vote of five,
7 the motion does carry, acknowledging that Board Member Daniels
8 is still having technical difficulties.

9 CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: Motion carries.

10 Item D.

11 MR. BYRES: Item D is the installation of a
12 pedestrian hybrid beacon. This is for the City of Casa Grande,
13 intersection of Cottonwood Lane and Kadota Avenue. The low bid
14 for this -- there was two bidders. Low bid was \$357,866. The
15 State's estimate was \$143,386. This is a difference of
16 \$214,481, or 149.6 percent.

17 Again, what we're seeing is a tremendous increase
18 in electrical items. In this particular case, it was for
19 traffic control, control cabinet, as well as mobilization,
20 because there's also a delay in delivery of these items as well.

21 In this particular case, the City of Casa Grande
22 does want to pay the difference. However, it is going to take
23 them an extended period of time to secure that funding. So they
24 have asked this project to be postponed so they can secure the
25 funding, and with that, we recommend postpone -- the

1 recommendation is postponement of this award.

2 CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: Is there a motion for
3 postponing Item 8D as presented?

4 VICE CHAIRMAN KNIGHT: So moved.

5 MR. MAXWELL: Second.

6 VICE CHAIRMAN KNIGHT: Thank you, Ted.

7 MR. MAXWELL: A question. (Inaudible.) How long
8 is this going to be postponed?

9 MR. BYRES: They have 45 days for award. So as
10 long as we bring it up next month, which is the intent, we're
11 within our time frame.

12 MR. MAXWELL: So they're coming -- they'll taking
13 45 days to come up with the additional funding. (Inaudible.)

14 CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: Motion by Board Member Gary,
15 second by Board Member Ted. Any additional discussion?

16 Hearing none, all in favor say aye.

17 BOARD MEMBERS: Aye.

18 CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: Opposed?

19 Floyd, conduct roll call.

20 MR. ROEHRICH: Board Member Meck.

21 MR. MECK: Aye.

22 MR. ROEHRICH: Thank you. And Board Member
23 Daniels, I believe we still have a connection issue. So the
24 motion carries.

25 CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: Motion carries.

1 Going down to Item 8C -- or E. I'm sorry. 8E.

2 MR. BYRES: Item 8E is paving a dirt road. This
3 is within the city of Maricopa. Low -- there was one bidder on
4 this project. Low bid was \$1,759,779. The State's estimate was
5 \$1,514,219, a difference of \$245,560, or 16.2 percent.

6 The biggest items that we saw in the difference
7 was the cost for quality control work. It was fairly extensive,
8 as well as surveying and layout were over and above what was
9 estimated.

10 In this particular case, the contractor had an
11 error in his DBE forms. He had used the wrong -- the wrong unit
12 costs in coming up with his DBE percentages. That was caught
13 during the review. We did contact the contractor. He did
14 understand that there was an error in his bid, and therefore, we
15 are having to reject all bids.

16 CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: Is there a motion to reject
17 all bids, Item 8E, as presented?

18 MR. MAXWELL: So moved.

19 VICE CHAIR KNIGHT: Second.

20 CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: Board Member Ted, motion,
21 second by Board Member Knight. Any discussion?

22 MR. SEARLE: Once again, a question for Chairman
23 Thompson. (Audio interruption) assumption (audio interruption)
24 up again and give this contractor the opportunity to fix his
25 bid?

1 MR. BYRES: That -- Mr. Chairman, Board Member
2 Searle, that is correct. This will go back out for bid.
3 Hopefully we'll get it before the next board meeting.

4 CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: Any further discussion?
5 All in favor say aye.

6 BOARD MEMBERS: Aye.

7 CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: Any opposed?
8 Floyd, conduct roll call.

9 MR. ROEHRICH: Board Member Meck.

10 MR. MECK: Aye.

11 MR. ROEHRICH: And Board Member Daniels, I
12 believe, has still lost her connection. Chairman, the motion
13 carries.

14 CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: Motion carries.

15 Going on -- going on to Item 8F.

16 MR. BYRES: Item 8F is a roadway and drainage
17 improvement project. This is in Santa Cruz County on Pendleton
18 Drive. There were five bidders on this project. The low bid
19 was \$1,982,289. The State's estimate was \$1,650,704, a
20 difference of \$331,585, or 20.1 percent.

21 What we saw for additional cost was the cost of
22 roadway excavation, pipe, slope armoring, as well as concrete
23 slabs. In this particular case, the roadway excavation is --
24 again, it's very tight, and so some work in there is going to be
25 extended over a longer period of time and more expensive than

1 what was estimated was the biggest change.

2 After reviewing and analyzing the low bid, we
3 do -- or the bid is a responsible and responsive bid, and we
4 recommend award to The Ashton Company, Inc., Contractors and
5 Engineers.

6 CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: Is there a motion to award
7 Item 8F to The Ashton Company, Inc., Contractors and Engineers?

8 MR. SEARLE: So moved.

9 MR. KNIGHT: Second.

10 BOARD MEMBER: Question.

11 CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: Board Member -- motion by
12 Board Member Richard and second by Gary. Any discussion?

13 BOARD MEMBER: A clarification, Greg. On the
14 funding on this, on your -- on your sheet, it shows 94 percent
15 fed, 5 percent state and 100 percent local. That's about 200
16 percent. What is it actually -- this one is actually
17 (inaudible)?

18 MR. BYRES: I believe this is 100 percent local.

19 BOARD MEMBER: 100 percent local. Okay.

20 CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: Any other question?

21 All in favor say aye.

22 BOARD MEMBERS: Aye.

23 CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: Any opposed?

24 Floyd, conduct roll call.

25 CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: Board Member Meck.

1 MR. MECK: Aye.

2 MR. ROEHRICH: Board Member Daniels.

3 Chairman, she's still having the connectivity
4 problems, but the motion does carry.

5 CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: Going on to -- motion
6 carries.

7 Agenda Item 9.

8 MR. BYRES: Mr. Chairman.

9 CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: Yes.

10 MR. BYRES: If I can make one more comment?

11 CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: Okay. Sure.

12 MR. BYRES: The -- two things, actually, if I
13 could.

14 The -- we have a new position that we're putting
15 together, which is the -- the title is fairly long. It's called
16 Native Nation Ambassador For Infrastructure (audio
17 interruption), and what this position is is we have had issues
18 in the past on projects that concern tribes or tribal agencies
19 where we are really good at the beginning of our projects, in
20 the planning stages and the utilization of our tribal liaisons
21 and putting projects together and determining doing one of --
22 what's called Section 106 consultations, but also coordinating
23 with the tribes to make that they understand what the project is
24 and how it works. We kind of fall down after that in that as
25 the project progresses through development and into

1 construction, there's a lot of times where there's just not
2 continuity across between ADOT and our tribal partners. So
3 consequently, the main role of this position is to make sure
4 that that continuity is occurring throughout the project, so
5 that if there's any kind of issues in or mediation measures or
6 mitigation measures that have to occur during the course of
7 construction that those are carried out, carried through, making
8 sure that everyone on the construction side is very much aware
9 of them and that there is much more accountability for making
10 sure that gets done.

11 DIRECTOR HALIKOWSKI: Greg, as a non-engineer,
12 let me try to put some of that back into English. What is a
13 Section 106 agreement?

14 MR. BYRES: So the Sections 106 consultation is
15 going through, and basically, ADOT comes up with a design.
16 There may be tribal concerns with those designs. So --

17 DIRECTOR HALIKOWSKI: And very often those
18 concerns are cultural and --

19 MR. BYRES: Uh-huh.

20 DIRECTOR HALIKOWSKI: -- historical issues,
21 because whether they're artifacts or burial sites -- what Greg's
22 trying to say is that we do a really good job up front, but as
23 we've been working with tribes, we need to be especially
24 respectful under the Federal 106 section of burial grounds, of
25 artifacts, of sacred grounds, and the reason we establish an

1 ambassador and call it that is because this person really is
2 working with a sovereign nation when working with a tribe. And
3 so we're learning some lessons through the I-10 project as we're
4 meeting with the Gila River cultural and resource office there,
5 that there are many things we didn't understand and didn't know
6 about moving forward.

7 MR. BYRES: Uh-huh.

8 DIRECTOR HALIKOWSKI: And so this is a new effort
9 to have someone coordinating all of these issues with our
10 sovereign nations to ensure that we are being respectful of the
11 cultural and historical issues and listening to the tribe to see
12 if there are ways that we can mitigate around those to be
13 respectful of it.

14 Sorry, Greg. I just don't speak engineer. I got
15 to put (audio interruption).

16 CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: Yes. (Inaudible.)

17 MR. BYRES: I'm trying to learn the other way.

18 DIRECTOR HALIKOWSKI: Thank you.

19 CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: Thank you, Greg and John.
20 The good thing about this is the common respect for the culture
21 and historical issues. Now, that is very important to note
22 that. So Richard.

23 MR. SEARLE: Yeah. I -- if you don't mind, I
24 would like to go to back to 8F right quick. The Santa Cruz
25 project. Just out of curiosity, if that's 100 percent local,

1 why did they choose to have it go through the ADOT process?

2 MR. BYRES: That's -- I'll have to check to make
3 sure that it is 100 percent. I say that because it was --
4 because it came through our LPA group.

5 MR. SEARLE: Uh-huh.

6 MR. BYRES: And normally it is, and the reason
7 they're doing that is because it's on our system. So,
8 consequently, we're administering the projects.

9 MR. SEARLE: I would like to follow-up on that
10 and know why they (inaudible) --

11 MR. BYRES: (Inaudible.)

12 MR. SEARLE: Okay. Thank you.

13 DIRECTOR HALIKOWSKI: No federal funds involved,
14 Greg?

15 MR. BYRES: On this one, I don't believe there
16 were, but I'll follow up.

17 DIRECTOR HALIKOWSKI: Typically, Mr. Searle, as
18 you know, when there's federal funds involved, we've got to play
19 by federal rules.

20 MR. SEARLE: Understood, and that's the question.
21 If it's 100 percent county, it's --

22 DIRECTOR HALIKOWSKI: We'll find out.

23 MR. SEARLE: All right.

24 MR. BYRES: So Mr. Chairman, one more.

25 CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: Sure.

1 MR. BYRES: I just want to say thank you very
2 much for your leadership on this board and your membership on
3 the Board. You've been great to work with, and it's been an
4 honor to work with you. I just wanted to be able to say that.
5 So thank you very much.

6 CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: Appreciate that, Greg.

7 VICE CHAIRMAN KNIGHT: I guess we're moving on to
8 Item Number 9.

9 DIRECTOR HALIKOWSKI: Yes. So Mr. Chairman, many
10 today here have sort of beaten me to the punch in the sense that
11 you've heard lots of accolades and lots of thank yous and
12 recognition of your chairmanship and what it's meant to people
13 to be able to work with you. So we would like to formally just
14 recognize some things and state them for the record.

15 So as all of you know, today is Jesse Thompson's
16 last meeting as chairman of the State Transportation Board, and
17 on behalf of the department and all the people that work in it,
18 I would like to take a few minutes to thank him for his service
19 to ADOT and the State of Arizona.

20 Mr. Thompson was appointed by Governor Ducey in
21 2017. He's brought a tremendous amount of experience and a
22 valuable perspective to this board, but more than that, to
23 Mr. Thompson, you're someone who has made service a priority
24 throughout your entire life. Besides being on the Board these
25 past six years, you've served for 28 years on the Navajo County

1 Board of Supervisors. You've also served on countless boards
2 and committees, all with the goal of representing your
3 community.

4 On this board, you've been the advocate for many.
5 You've consistently called attention to the importance of
6 community and cultural factors as we've considered projects on
7 the state highway system. ADOT staff has actually amended our
8 planning to programming processes based on your suggestions.

9 When I've talked to ADOT team members, they
10 mention how you're someone who really has a heartfelt way of
11 expressing (inaudible). They've said that your insight has
12 helped them to gain a better understanding of the communities we
13 serve. They also point out that you -- that you formed a very
14 good working relationship with our tribal planning liaisons,
15 which has helped us a lot.

16 The past six years have represented a major
17 shift from expansion to more of a preservation and modernization
18 mindset. During your time on the Board, you've certainly helped
19 us to prioritize funding in order to help make our
20 transportation system better and safer for everyone.

21 You've been instrumental in helping us to fund
22 and support many projects and studies. That includes major
23 projects on I-10, I-17, State Route 189 and I-40 that have
24 improved safety and mobility.

25 You've also been a staunch advocate for more

1 collaboration with tribal and local governments. Some of the
2 ways you've made that happen is through your own efforts to
3 connect with the community. You've participated in the planning
4 to -- programming to planning workshops for your district. You
5 requested to hold three State Transportation Board meetings in
6 tribal communities during your tenure as board chairman. You
7 requested to follow up on tribal airport projects funded through
8 the State Aviation Fund. You requested a tribal school bus
9 route study, which is ongoing through the Northern Association
10 Council of Governments. You attended US-191 chapter meetings to
11 discuss the Chinle to Many Farms safety improvement project that
12 is underway. You also attended Arizona Rural Transportation
13 Summits and a recent Hopi Tribe information session all with the
14 goal of facilitating more collaboration.

15 On a personal note, we have all enjoyed working
16 with you, and we thank you for your dedication. Your
17 contributions have helped us to better serve local communities
18 and the State. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

19 I think we have a few gifts for you. I think we
20 can -- do you want to start with the ADOT ones?

21 VICE CHAIRMAN KNIGHT: Yeah. Go ahead. Start
22 with the ADOT ones.

23 DIRECTOR HALIKOWSKI: I don't know if we could
24 get -- oh, there you are. So, Mr. Chairman, we have -- our
25 first gift for you -- is it actually something I can hand him or

1 should I just --

2 MR. ROEHRICH: No. The first -- the first gift,
3 just -- I don't have anything yet.

4 DIRECTOR HALIKOWSKI: That's the three-year
5 subscription to *Arizona's Highways* magazine. So one of the
6 great promises of the 20th Century was the check's in the mail.
7 The magazine's in the mail. You'll get it.

8 MR. ROEHRICH: I thought about bringing in the
9 calendar that I had, but it's a '22 calendar, saying, here's an
10 old calendar, but you're going to get your new magazine starting
11 in the new year.

12 DIRECTOR HALIKOWSKI: So the -- we have an ADOT
13 pen and pencil set for you, sir, so you can continue to write us
14 (inaudible). Thank you.

15 And we also have a copper license plate.

16 CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: Uh-huh.

17 DIRECTOR HALIKOWSKI: Now, you can't put this on
18 the back of your car, but (inaudible) and Grand Canyon State,
19 Arizona. Our plates actually used to be made out of copper in
20 the old days, but it got a little expensive. So we switched to
21 a less expensive material, but this one, solid copper.

22 BOARD MEMBER: This one (inaudible) the funniest
23 part.

24 DIRECTOR HALIKOWSKI: There you go, sir.

25 And last but not least, we do have a certificate

1 for you, and it says: Be it remembered that Jesse Thompson
2 represented the people of Arizona on the State Transportation
3 Board from January 2017 to January 2023. Jesse represented well
4 the interests of the Arizona State Transportation Board, the
5 Arizona Department of Transportation and the citizens of
6 Arizona. We extend to him our sincere and grateful appreciation
7 for his special dedication to public service. His contributions
8 were numerous, beneficial, and his labors on behalf of all the
9 people of Arizona will be long remembered. Signed by your
10 fellow board members and myself.

11 (Inaudible.) We'll give that to Floyd. Get a
12 picture.

13 Thank you. Congratulations, sir.

14 MR. ROEHRICH: (Inaudible.) I'll put it over
15 here.

16 VICE CHAIRMAN KNIGHT: (Inaudible.)

17 Jesse, it's indeed been an honor for the last
18 five years to serve on this board with you. You've been a great
19 example of how to get things done, and I think all of us can
20 take from you, what you've been doing. You've led by example,
21 and this is a token of our appreciation. It's got an
22 inscription on both sides, but on the front side it's -- and I'm
23 probably not going to say this correctly, but (speaking Native
24 language) which is -- which is --

25 DIRECTOR HALIKOWSKI: (Inaudible.) Leader.

1 VICE CHAIRMAN KNIGHT: -- leader. Yeah. And
2 that's as close as we could come in Navajo to chairman.

3 BOARD MEMBER: (Inaudible) please note that
4 this is -- this is actually really good (inaudible).

5 DIRECTOR HALIKOWSKI: I do want it noted when
6 he opened that, he said, ooh. Never on any of the ADOT
7 (inaudible).

8 BOARD MEMBER: And in the future if we could go
9 with real copper (inaudible).

10 DIRECTOR HALIKOWSKI: (Inaudible) do our best.

11 CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: I guess --

12 VICE CHAIRMAN KNIGHT: Jesse --

13 CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: -- all I can say is thank
14 you very much.

15 VICE CHAIRMAN KNIGHT: Before your final
16 comments, I'd like to say a word or two myself.

17 I've known Jesse for about 16 years. We've
18 both served on the county supervisors association board, and
19 believe it or not, I really didn't get to know Jesse that
20 well, and I really have come to appreciate him this last year.
21 I've got to know him a lot better as chair, and really do
22 appreciate everything that you've done. So thank you.

23 CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: Thank you.

24 MR. MAXWELL: And Jesse, I want to add a couple
25 comments as still the new guy on the board. You really were a

1 big help in bringing me in, encouraging me to participate,
2 encouraging me to get involved, and can't understate that
3 comment made that you led by example, because you were always
4 there. And what you really taught me is that a big part of
5 your responsibility, while you're thinking statewide all the
6 time, you're absolutely representing your district, and that
7 is something I think we all need to remember that. That's
8 what we're here for is to move the state forward, but we're
9 also here to make sure that our district is not left out.

10 DIRECTOR HALIKOWSKI: (inaudible) Board Member
11 Daniels or Meck wants to --

12 VICE CHAIRMAN KNIGHT: Motion to adjourn.

13 DIRECTOR HALIKOWSKI: Before you -- I -- we'd
14 ask Board Member Daniels or Meck if they wanted to make --

15 MR. ROEHRICH: Yeah, I'll just say Board Member
16 Daniels does not look like she was able to get back in, but
17 Board Member Meck is still online. So I don't know, Mr. Meck,
18 if you have comments you'd like to make.

19 MR. MECK: Yes, sir. I apologize for not being
20 present, Chairman Thompson. This past year we've had some
21 issues with my wife, but the other side of that is I have
22 really, really, really appreciated your leadership and
23 commitment, and I thank you and wish you the best in the
24 future, and a merry Christmas to all of you from all of us.
25 Thank you.

1 CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: (Audio interruption.)

2 VICE CHAIRMAN KNIGHT: Then we're adjourned.

3 CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: I guess all I can say is
4 thank you, Board Members. I too have really gotten close to
5 all of you, and pretty much what I expect of this board,
6 that's how it came out to be. Everybody being considerate and
7 being respectful with one another. No matter the issues,
8 whether it's a remote area, rural community concerns or the
9 bigger area, we all stood side by side and moving forward.
10 And the public certainly has been very instrumental with their
11 support. You can see the comments that they have made.
12 Really appreciative.

13 I have always said that I never left my
14 hometown. I went out to school off the reservation, but even
15 my job, I took employment on -- within the Nation, even there
16 was the county board supervisor. I was always -- and I always
17 credit my working ethics to one friend that told me although I
18 was -- make sure that I'm on time, where I need to be, I need
19 to be there, but what really have made me (audio interruption)
20 former supervisor show up. That meant a lot to me. That
21 really kind of (inaudible).

22 So again, I do say thank you to all the public,
23 people in Apache, Navajo, (inaudible) Counties and the State
24 of Arizona. Certainly thankful to Navajo County for
25 recommending me for the State Legislature. I went before

1 them. They recommended to the Governor, and thankful to the
2 Governor for appointing me as well.

3 So again, thank you to all of you.

4 VICE CHAIRMAN KNIGHT: Jesse, I'd just like to
5 say one more thing. My wife was really sorry she couldn't be
6 here for this particular meeting, because I know you've grown
7 to be not only my board member at arms, or what (audio
8 interruption) might say a friend, and my wife considers you a
9 friend as well, and she's sorry she couldn't be here to -- but
10 we hope that you -- just because you're stepping down as
11 chair, that that doesn't mean you won't continue until your
12 replacement arrives, whenever that might be down the road. It
13 will get to be a while from now that you'll continue as a
14 board member and be able to attend the meetings and
15 participate as you've always done, because it's certainly to
16 our advantage to have you on the Board. So thank you, Jesse.

17 CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: Thank you all.

18 (Inaudible.)

19 MR. ROEHRICH: Mr. Chair, before the Board
20 disburses and adjourns, I'm just hoping we might gather the
21 members with you in the front so Paula can take a snap for our
22 website and our newsletter.

23 CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: Okay.

24 (Indiscernible crosstalk.)

25 CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: Is there a motion to

1 adjourn?

2 MR. SEARLE: So moved.

3 MR. MAXWELL: I made a motion a long time
4 again, Jesse.

5 CHAIRMAN THOMPSON: Okay. There's a motion and
6 seconds to adjourn. All those in favor say aye.

7 BOARD MEMBERS: Aye.

8 (Meeting adjourned at 11:58 a.m.)
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1 STATE OF ARIZONA }
2 COUNTY OF MARICOPA } ss.
3

4 BE IT KNOWN that the foregoing proceedings were reported
5 by me, TERESA A. WATSON, Registered Merit Reporter, Certified
6 Reporter, Certificate No. 50876, State of Arizona, from an
7 electronic recording and were reduced to written form under my
8 direction; that the foregoing 108 pages constitute a true and
9 accurate transcript of said electronic recording, all done to
10 the best of my skill and ability.

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

14 DATED at Phoenix, Arizona, this 23rd day of January 2023.
15
16

17 /s/ Teresa A. Watson

18 TERESA A. WATSON, RMR
19 Certified Reporter
20 Certificate No. 50876
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Adjournment

A motion to adjourn the December 16, 2022, State Transportation Board Meeting was made by Board Member Richard Searle and seconded by Board Member Ted Maxwell. In a voice vote, the motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 11:58 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