

**STATE TRANSPORTATION BOARD MEETING
IN PERSON WITH OPTIONAL TELEPHONIC/WEBEX ATTENDANCE
9:00am, December 15, 2023
City of Yuma City Hall
One City Plaza
Yuma, Arizona 85364**

Call to Order

Chairman Gary Knight 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, Linda Hogan

A quorum of the State Transportation Board was present. **In attendance (in person):** Chairman Gary Knight, Vice Chairman Richard Searle, Board Member Jenny Howard and Board Member Jesse Thompson. Board Member Ted Maxwell, Board Member Jenn Daniels, and Board Member Jackie Meck participated virtually via WebEx. There were approximately 40 members of the public on-line and approximately 27 attendees in person.

Opening Remarks

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

Title VI of the Civil Rights Act

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

City of Yuma City Hall
One City Plaza
Yuma, Arizona 85364

December 15, 2023
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 EXCERPT OF ELECTRONIC
2 PROCEEDINGS, ADOT - STATE TRANSPORTATION BOARD MEETING, was
3 reported from electronic media by TERESA A. WATSON, Registered
4 Merit Reporter and a Certified Reporter in and for the State of
5 Arizona.

6
7 PARTICIPANTS:

8 Board Members:

9 Gary Knight, Chairman
10 Richard Searle, Vice Chairman
11 Jenn Daniels, Board Member (via WebEx)
12 Jackie Meck, Board Member (via WebEx)
13 Ted Maxwell, Board Member (via WebEx)
14 Jesse Thompson, Board Member
15 Jenny Howard, Board Member

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CALL TO THE AUDIENCE

IN PERSON SPEAKERS:	PAGE:
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Crystal Figueroa, Executive Director, YMPO.....	6
Vinny Gallegos, CYMPO Executive Director.....	7

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1 (Beginning of excerpt.)

2 CHAIRMAN KNIGHT: We'll move on to call to the
3 audience. Just keep in mind that if you're attending virtually,
4 everyone will be muted when they call in to the meeting. When
5 your name is called to provide your comments, will you please
6 indicate your presence by virtually raising your hand using your
7 keypad or through the WebEx application. The WebEx host will
8 guide you through the unmuting and muting process following the
9 instructions included with the meeting agenda.

10 In person, there is an opportunity for members of
11 the public to discuss items of interest with the Board. Please
12 fill out a Request for Public Input Form and give it to the
13 board secretary if you wish to address the Board. And in the
14 interest of time, a three-minute limit will be imposed on all
15 speakers, whether they be virtual or in person.

16 So at that -- that being said, Floyd, would you
17 please call the first speaker.

18 MR. ROEHRICH: Yes, sir, Mr. Chairman. We
19 received three requests to speak, none online. So we'll go
20 ahead and go through the ones here present.

21 Our first speaker is Mr. Bruce Bracker.
22 Mr. Bracker.

23 MR. BRACKER: Good morning, Chairman Knight.
24 Excuse me. Good morning, Chairman Knight, and members of the
25 Arizona Department of Transportation Board.

1 My name is Bruce Bracker. I'm the supervisor in
2 Santa Cruz County. I represent District 3, which is where the
3 application for this AZ SMART grant that I'm here requesting
4 your support on.

5 This area of Santa Cruz County is the fastest
6 growing region for residential. It is also one of the largest
7 commercial areas, with produce trucks and joint manufacturing
8 trucks, warehouses in this area. The AZ SMART grant is for --
9 the planning money for the -- for the entire project. This
10 project, we had the original plan to do this project in 2018,
11 and so we've been really pushing on this for a long.

12 This is for the design phase. It's a \$3.2
13 million grant from AZ SMART fund. Santa Cruz County received
14 \$8.6 million from the State Legislature. We plan on using half
15 a million dollars of that money to match this AZ SMART grant,
16 and then, of course, following the procedures of AZ SMART, we
17 will then start lobbying the state -- the federal government for
18 funding, but it's to redo the Ruby Road, Rio Rico Drive and the
19 east frontage road between those two.

20 And so we're here to support that, and hopefully
21 we get an aye from you when this comes up on today's agenda.
22 Thank you very much.

23 CHAIRMAN KNIGHT: Thank you, Mr. Supervisor.
24 Floyd.

25 MR. ROEHRICH: So, Mr. Chairman, before I call

1 the next speaker, I just want to acknowledge that Board Member
2 Ted Maxwell was able to log in to the virtual meeting. He is
3 now in the meeting. You have all seven members present.

4 CHAIRMAN KNIGHT: Great. Thank you.

5 MR. ROEHRICH: Our next speaker is Ms. Crystal
6 Figueroa.

7 MS. FIGUEROA: Good morning, Chairman Knight,
8 Board Members and staff. I'm Crystal Figueroa from the Yuma
9 Metropolitan Planning Organization, executive director.

10 We really appreciate your attendance last night
11 at the state transportation dinner. It was a great opportunity
12 to be able to meet and talk in an informal basis, but also thank
13 and recognize Mr. Chairman Gary Knight for his extraordinary
14 work in representing District 6 as a member of the State
15 Transportation Board. We appreciate and are fortunate to have
16 Mr. Knight as committed and representing our district and our
17 community.

18 As you know, Yuma is nestled between Phoenix,
19 Arizona, and San Diego, California, and also in close proximity
20 to the border. We are a growing community and projects are
21 coming forward based on the growth. So we are excited to work
22 in collaborating a partnership with ADOT and the State
23 Transportation Board.

24 Thank you so much.

25 CHAIRMAN KNIGHT: Thank you, Crystal.

1 MR. ROEHRICH: Our next speaker is Mr. Vinny
2 Gallegos. Mr. Gallegos.

3 MR. GALLEGOS: Mr. Chairman, members of the
4 Board, Vinny Gallegos, Executive Director of the Central Yavapai
5 Metropolitan Planning Organization.

6 I just wanted to continue with what Crystal said,
7 just our gratitude. We're able to celebrate and honor the last
8 six years of service of Chairman Knight. Being in Yavapai
9 County for the last several years, and prior to that in Mohave
10 County with the Lake Havasu MPO, the Chairman has been actively
11 present the whole time at both MPOs.

12 And I know you travel throughout the state, but
13 that is an incredible, meaningful relationship that you built,
14 Chairman Knight, on behalf of ADOT, on behalf of transportation,
15 just to be actively present. It really means a lot for your
16 presence in person, and then when there's a conflict. I know
17 when you have your Yuma Council meetings, you always make the
18 effort to attend virtually, but we do really want to thank you
19 for the last six years of service. It's been incredibly
20 meaningful for me and the work that we do. Previously in
21 Havasu, now in the city of Prescott or in Prescott region, the
22 central Yavapai region, but really, thank you for your
23 leadership. Thank you for the communication and your support.
24 We really do appreciate it. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

25 CHAIRMAN KNIGHT: Thank you, Vinny. Thank you

1 for your comments.

2 MR. ROEHRICH: So, Mr. Chairman, that is all the
3 comments/requests that we received.

4 CHAIRMAN KNIGHT: Wow. Great.

5 MR. ROEHRICH: Happy holidays.

6 CHAIRMAN KNIGHT: I'm not going to question that.
7 Okay. We'll now move on to Item 1, the
8 director's report. Director Toth.

9 DIRECTOR TOTH: Good morning. I want to thank
10 the Mayor, the Council, staff and YMPO for welcoming us with
11 such hospitality last night and today as well.

12 I'd like to share a couple of quick updates with
13 everybody. We have some really good news over this past few
14 weeks. I'll start off with earlier we found out that we were
15 awarded a \$24 million grant for a wildlife overpass and
16 additional project elements along I-17 near Flagstaff. The
17 improvements are all aimed at reducing crashes involving
18 wildlife, in particular, elk and mule deer that are in the area
19 between Munds Park and Kelly Canyon.

20 We partnered with Arizona Game and Fish in
21 applying for the grant through FHWA's Wildlife Crossings Pilot
22 Program, which was created under the Bipartisan Infrastructure
23 Law, and actually, to announce the grant, the FHWA
24 administrator, Shailen Bhatt, visited Arizona on December 5th to
25 participate in a media conference, which had a very good

1 turnout, and we had a lot of good press coverage in relation to
2 that.

3 So a projected start date will be determined in
4 the next few months. We still need to complete the final
5 design, including some environmental review, some project
6 programming and other steps required. The new wildlife -- it's
7 going to be an overpass. It's a 100-foot wide bridge that goes
8 over I-17 near the Willard Springs area, and it will also
9 include some fencing for being able to channelize the wildlife,
10 as well as some wildlife ramps, so that that if they do breach
11 the fenced area, they are able to get back into the outer area
12 and not on the roadway.

13 Next I want to share some additional information
14 about another grant that we received this month. This one is
15 from the Federal Railroad Administration's Corridor
16 Identification and Development Program. It's a \$500,000 grant,
17 which will be used for preliminary planning related to the
18 State's proposal to re-establish rail between the Phoenix and
19 Tucson areas.

20 There's currently no construction scheduled and
21 no funding identified for the project to establish the rail
22 system between Phoenix and Tucson, but the grant does represent
23 an important step moving forward, and we've been advised that by
24 completing these steps required of the Corridor Identification
25 and Development Program, that may lead to selection preference

1 for future funding opportunities. So it will allow us to
2 develop a scope, schedule and budget for a service development
3 agreement, and we're really looking forward to that.

4 Next, I'd just like to share a quick safety
5 reminder. We've already had snow in Arizona, and so we are in
6 our winter driving season, and we are ready. We're ready to
7 plow that snow. We have more than 400 trained snowplow
8 operators who work around the state. Last year they were very,
9 very busy, as you might imagine, with the intensity that we had
10 in the northern region. We plowed 1.2 million miles throughout
11 last season. Just an incredible amount. That was almost double
12 the previous season, and we don't know what this season is going
13 to entail.

14 Hopefully -- you know, we hope for the snow, but
15 at the same time, we don't hope for the snow. So it's a
16 catch-22 for us. But we're staying, you know, definitely on top
17 of it, but we also want the drivers to stay on top of it, which
18 means staying at least four car lengths behind the snowplow, and
19 please don't attempt to pass the snowplow. That's why they're
20 there.

21 Travelers can visit our 511 information site or
22 download the app for information and real-time conditions
23 associated, and for even more safety tips, please go to our
24 website, and our Know Snow campaign is on there.

25 I will also be giving the legislative report

1 today. Anthony is not able to be with us. It's a very short
2 report.

3 We're gearing up for the legislative session,
4 which will begin on January 8th. We're also preparing for our
5 sunset hearing, which is scheduled to take place on January 4th.
6 And in addition, we're continuing to finalize our legislative
7 proposals. So not a lot happening right now, but obviously next
8 month we'll have a lot more to report.

9 And that's the end of my reports, and I don't
10 think we have any last minute items at this time.

11 CHAIRMAN KNIGHT: Okay. Any last minute items?
12 No?

13 DIRECTOR TOTH: None.

14 MR. ROEHRICH: No.

15 CHAIRMAN KNIGHT: Does anyone on the Board have
16 any questions for the director?

17 MR. THOMPSON: Chairman.

18 CHAIRMAN KNIGHT: Yes. Jesse.

19 MR. THOMPSON: I know there's a lot of
20 jurisdiction issues --

21 MR. ROEHRICH: Please use your microphone,
22 Mr. Thompson.

23 MR. THOMPSON: I know there's a lot of
24 jurisdictional issues between the BIA and the State of Arizona,
25 but, you know, I'd like to see -- find ways that those two

1 entities can support one another in the removal of snow, because
2 the State, I believe, have more resources than the BIA. So it
3 usually takes some time to remove all the snow off the pavement,
4 and it's hard for the kids, you know, to get to school on time
5 and all that, and so I just -- that's just a comment that I
6 have. So thank you, Chair.

7 CHAIRMAN KNIGHT: Any other questions for the
8 director? Hearing none.

9 We'll now move on to Item Number 2, the district
10 report, with the Southwest District administrator, Bruce Fenske.

11 MR. FENSKE: Good morning. I'd like to welcome
12 you back to Yuma. I know you were here only two months ago. I
13 had the opportunity to present then. I picked the topic.
14 Highest priority item was US-95. I gave a little summary and
15 background on that, so today I'm going to give a more general
16 district-wide report for you.

17 You probably heard this week that there was
18 another federal grant that was awarded to San Luis, and I want
19 to let you know that following the special line item in the
20 state budget, ADOT and the Southwest District does have a joint
21 project agreement in place with the City of San Luis. We're
22 moving forward with design on that. So we'll be prepared to
23 fully expend that grant money as soon as the design is completed
24 so that we can move into construction for improvements down in
25 San Luis.

1 Just as a brief overview for you, what you see
2 before you here is a map of the Southwest District. In addition
3 to Yuma County, we also have portions of La Paz County. We go
4 all the way up State Route 95 to the Bill Williams River. We
5 extend into Maricopa County. We have I-10 all the way up to
6 State Route 85, and then we have the entire State Route 85
7 within Maricopa County lying within our district. We also have
8 I-8, all of -- all of the way through Maricopa County. So
9 actually, geographically, Southwest District includes about 40
10 percent of Maricopa County.

11 Here's a list of the current construction
12 projects that are underway within our district, and I'd like to
13 take just a moment to give you an overview of each of the
14 projects that's underway.

15 This is the project I spoke about two months ago.
16 It's the US-95 Rifle Range to Wellton Mohawk Canal, currently
17 being widened to five lanes. Two lanes in each direction plus
18 the two-way center left turn lane.

19 We have a project that's entering into
20 construction for parking availability along I-10. This is part
21 of a multi-state federal grant program that's come through, and
22 in addition to four locations in Arizona, California, New Mexico
23 and Texas are also in the process, if they're not already
24 completed, installation of signs along the interstate
25 identifying how many parking stalls are available in various

1 locations. Two of the locations are within Southwest District.
2 The other two are over in Southeast District, but our district
3 will be overseeing all of the construction.

4 Not to be too anticipatory, but coming up on a
5 line item -- agenda item for you later this morning, there's a
6 project on SR-85, south of Gila Bend. 16 miles of the road
7 following your approval will receive two-inch spot repairs and a
8 cape seal. So that -- we anticipate starting construction then
9 with your approval a couple months into 2024.

10 Currently underway, we have an Americans With
11 Disabilities Act improvement project, the first of two projects
12 we're looking at doing in Gila Bend. The second phase is under
13 design. This phase is taking a look at those driveways and
14 sidewalks that are on the north side of the road through town.

15 We have two preservation projects along I-8. The
16 paving is completed on these projects, and we are proceeding
17 with things like tree removal, guardrail upgrades and lining of
18 pipes. The projects, one is west of Gila Bend, Milepost 71 to
19 82, and the other is east of Gila Bend, from Milepost 135 to
20 about Milepost 142.

21 We have two paving projects on I-10. The one
22 closest to Phoenix near Tonopah, that one, the paving is
23 complete and we're wrapping that up with punch list items and
24 should be shortly finished with that project. The other one is
25 over in La Paz County. It happens to straddle Quartzsite. Runs

1 from about Milepost 12 to about Milepost 24. It's a pavement
2 preservation project. We're milling out the old pavement, which
3 is all cracked and is full of potholes, and putting in new
4 pavement, in addition to doing barrier upgrades and guardrail
5 upgrades.

6 With that, that's a summary of all of the current
7 construction projects we have in our district, and unless you
8 have any questions, I will turn it back to the chairman.

9 CHAIRMAN KNIGHT: Are there any questions from
10 the Board? Yes, Richard.

11 VICE CHAIR SEARLE: No question, but just a
12 comment and a -- I-8 is -- the work that you've done, it's a lot
13 better now than it was three years ago, and so congratulations
14 on that. It was -- it was a little rough before you started
15 those projects, so it's in good shape. Thank you.

16 MR. FENSKE: Thank you.

17 CHAIRMAN KNIGHT: Any other comments from the
18 Board?

19 Thank you, Bruce.

20 We'll move on now to Item Number 3, the consent
21 agenda. Does any member want an item removed from the consent
22 agenda for (indiscernible) consideration or discussion?

23 VICE CHAIRMAN SEARLE: I don't have a request to
24 take something off. I just want to comment on 3E. I'm glad to
25 see it there and that it -- it's on the consent agenda to be

1 approved. This is a project that the Sierra Vista area has been
2 waiting for for a long time.

3 CHAIRMAN KNIGHT: Thank you. Thank you, Richard.
4 Any other comments from the Board? Then --

5 MR. THOMPSON: Chairman, I, too --

6 CHAIRMAN KNIGHT: Yes.

7 MR. THOMPSON: I, too, would also like to also
8 thank -- (inaudible) want to thank you that there's a couple
9 projects, one in Navajo County and one in Coconino County in the
10 consent agenda. So thank you.

11 MR. FENSKE: Great.

12 VICE CHAIRMAN SEARLE: I make a motion to approve
13 the consent agent.

14 MS. HOWARD: Second.

15 CHAIRMAN KNIGHT: I have a motion from Board
16 Member Searle and a second from Board Member Howard to approve
17 the consent agenda as presented.

18 All those in favor signify by saying aye.

19 BOARD MEMBERS: Aye.

20 CHAIRMAN KNIGHT: Floyd, would you poll our
21 virtual members?

22 MR. ROEHRICH: Board Member Meck.

23 MR. MECK: Aye.

24 MR. ROEHRICH: Board Member Daniels.

25 MS. DANIELS: Aye.

1 MR. ROEHRICH: Board Member Maxwell.

2 MR. MAXWELL: Aye.

3 MR. ROEHRICH: Mr. Chairman, the motion carries.

4 CHAIRMAN KNIGHT: Thank you, Floyd.

5 Moving on to Item Number 4, the financial report,
6 with Kristine Ward.

7 MS. WARD: Very good. Thank you. Good morning.

8 CHAIRMAN KNIGHT: Good morning.

9 MS. WARD: Mr. Knight, it's been a pleasure.
10 Congratulations on your six years, but it has been a pleasure,
11 sir. Thank you very much.

12 CHAIRMAN KNIGHT: Thank you, Kristine.

13 MS. WARD: All right. Let's proceed here with
14 our Highway User Revenue Fund report. We are within target
15 range, right at the very top. We're running 2 percent above
16 forecast. We've collected about \$707 million.

17 When you look at the individual categories of
18 HURF and what we're seeing happening there, you'll see that use
19 fuel is standing out a little there above forecast. For the
20 month of November, we were 18.9 percent above the preceding
21 year, and we're 10.2 percent above our forecast, and that is
22 because of some diminished refunds. As gas prices change, it
23 impacts where people choose to buy their gas and drive, and it
24 ends up impacting our revenues there.

25 Moving on to the Regional Area Road Fund. We are

1 outside of our target range, but at least it's on the upside.
2 We are 3.1 percent above forecast. \$246 million collected.

3 When you look at the individual categories, that
4 flow into the Regional Area Road Fund for the month of
5 October -- this is October's activity -- you'll see that --
6 nothing unusual other than that little weird category of other,
7 and that's due to an unforecastable audit that took place or
8 adjustment by the Department of Revenue. We don't get a lot of
9 insight into those, but you can see we're just fine on RARF as
10 well.

11 That concludes my report. I have nothing to
12 report out on the fed program, federal program, the debt
13 program. We've had our -- we've had our good luck this year
14 with that earlier refinancing. And that concludes my
15 presentation, sir.

16 CHAIRMAN KNIGHT: Thank you, Kristine.

17 Does anyone on the Board have questions for
18 Kristine? Hearing none.

19 MS. WARD: Thank you very much.

20 CHAIRMAN KNIGHT: Thank you.

21 We'll now move on to Item Number 5, with Paul
22 Patane, which is the Multimodal Planning Division report.

23 Paul, the floor is yours.

24 MR. PATANE: Good morning. Good morning,
25 Chairman Knight, Board Members. I'm Paul Patane with the

1 Multimodal Planning Division, and so this morning I'll start off
2 with the Multimodal Planning Division update.

3 Some of the other current planning activities
4 I'll cover today are the tribal transportation update. We'll
5 give you an update on the Bullhead City metro planning --
6 metropolitan planning organization designation, along with just
7 a quick update related to the 2025-2029 five-year program that's
8 currently under development.

9 So some of our statewide activities, very happy,
10 just want to bring your attention to the Governor's Office on
11 Tribal Relations will be hosting the 29th Annual Indian Nations
12 and Tribes Legislative Day. This is on January 10th at the
13 State Capital. The event is intended to pay tribute to the
14 history and culture of American Indian people and their
15 contributions to the prosperity and cultural diversity of the
16 United States. So it's a well-attended event. ADOT will have a
17 booth there as well, and if you really get the opportunity, you
18 should try to attend to learn a lot about the culture and
19 history of our Native Americans.

20 Next, we have some of the northern region
21 activities. We are ongoing with our collaboration with the
22 Navajo Nation as far as crash data or data collection for
23 crashes along the various routes. It's important that we
24 continue these efforts with our tribal partners in order to make
25 our rural communities safer. It is important that we get this

1 crash data and that we're able to come up with good
2 recommendations based on the types of crashes that we see in
3 these areas.

4 Then we have another activity was our -- just a
5 meeting with the Hopi DOT with Director Lomayaktewa. The
6 purpose of this meeting was to cover the AZ SMART program and
7 give them some insight into how they can work with the Navajo
8 County partners on being eligible for projects in the funding.

9 Some other ongoing activities in the northern
10 region. As far as the Chinle airport reconstruction, they had
11 the kickoff meeting for this project earlier this week. The
12 project will focus on improvements to the runway as far as
13 airport apron reconstruction.

14 Then upcoming with the Hopi DOT, we have our
15 partnership meeting coming up in January 17th at the
16 Northcentral District. The focus there will be on some projects
17 related to bus pullouts, some -- the Polacca Bridge along SR-87,
18 along away -- along with some discussion on right-of-way
19 transfers on Indian Route 60 and Low Mountain Road.

20 On our southern region, we're working with the
21 Fort Yuma Quechan, our partners, in looking on discussions
22 regarding a bridge project on Quechan Drive, and so there's this
23 ongoing collaboration and see how their project could be
24 eligible for the off-system bridge program. So just working
25 through those discussions and to see if we can be of assistance

1 for that project.

2 Then just an update on the Bullhead City
3 Metropolitan Planning Organization. On November --
4 December 4th, Governor Hobbs officially designated the new MPO
5 for Arizona for Bullhead City, and so it's, you know, a really
6 great -- it was a great process to gather -- you know, putting
7 this whole designation together. We -- our partner at the
8 Bullhead City, we work well together, along with our FHWA
9 partners, and we did have to do some consultation with the State
10 of Nevada, their planning division, just as far as setting up
11 the boundaries, but as you can see, the MPO boundary is the
12 green portion, and the urbanized area, based on the 2020 census,
13 is the blue portion. So we'll -- from -- the next steps that
14 we'll take from here is working with the Bullhead City staff and
15 the MPO in developing what we call the Work Program Agreement,
16 that way they can officially -- we can begin all the functions
17 associated with an MPO.

18 Then next, just wanted to just bring you up to
19 speed on the development of the program. You know, these
20 couple -- next couple months is when we'll begin to prepare the
21 tentative program to present to the -- to the Board in February.
22 So it's -- you know, the five-year program is -- you know, takes
23 15 months. It's an ongoing activity that we're excited to bring
24 the program to the Board in this next couple months. So just a
25 quick update on the progress there.

1 Any questions?

2 CHAIRMAN KNIGHT: Does the Board have any
3 questions for Paul?

4 Yes, Jesse.

5 MR. THOMPSON: Chairman, Board Members and our
6 partners that are the (inaudible), I started to say that I
7 really appreciate it, the director. There has been a lot of
8 effort made by ADOT staff in reaching out to the rural and
9 remote area communities, including the Native American tribes.
10 A lot of effort has been made there, and certainly do appreciate
11 you, Paul, and I see (inaudible) here, (inaudible) has been
12 established to help in that regard. So I really do appreciate
13 that continued (inaudible) effort will be appreciated. So thank
14 you, Paul.

15 MR. PATANE: Thank you, Mr. Thompson.

16 CHAIRMAN KNIGHT: Any other comments from the
17 Board? Questions? Hearing none.

18 Paul, we'll move on to Item Number 6, which is
19 also yours, which is the PPAC.

20 MR. PATANE: Thank you, Chairman Knight, Board
21 Members.

22 So we'll start off today with project
23 modifications. As you can see the map in front of you, we have
24 two items, 6A and 6B. So Chairman Knight, Board Members, for
25 your consideration are the proposed changes to the proposed

1 2024-2028 State Transportation Facilities Construction Program
2 Items 6A and 6B project modifications.

3 CHAIRMAN KNIGHT: Does anyone on the Board have a
4 question for Paul on Items 6A or 6B? Hearing none.

5 I'll entertain a motion for approval of PPAC
6 project modifications Items A -- 6A and 6B as presented.

7 MS. HOWARD: So moved.

8 MR. THOMPSON: Second.

9 CHAIRMAN KNIGHT: I have a motion from Board
10 Member Howard, a second from Board Member Thompson to approve
11 PPAC project modifications Items 6A and 6B as presented.

12 All those in favor signify by saying aye.

13 BOARD MEMBERS: Aye.

14 Chairman Knight: Any opposed?

15 Floyd, would you poll our virtual members?

16 MR. ROEHRICH: Board Member Daniels.

17 MS. DANIELS: Aye.

18 MR. ROEHRICH: Board Member Meck.

19 MR. MECK: Aye.

20 MR. ROEHRICH: Board Member Maxwell.

21 MR. MAXWELL: Aye.

22 MR. ROEHRICH: Chairman, the motion carries.

23 CHAIRMAN KNIGHT: Thank you.

24 Okay. Keep going.

25 MR. PATANE: Thank you.

1 So next we have on the screen the map of the new
2 projects. Items 6C through 6E. So, Chairman Knight, Board
3 Members, for your consideration are the proposed changes to the
4 2024-2028 State Transportation Facilities Construction Program
5 Items 6C through 6E, new projects.

6 CHAIRMAN KNIGHT: Any questions from the Board
7 for Paul on Items 6C through 6E?

8 VICE CHAIR SEARLE: I've got --

9 CHAIRMAN KNIGHT: Yes, Richard.

10 VICE CHAIR SEARLE: All right. Let me pull this
11 up as we're -- give me a second.

12 MR. PATANE: No problem.

13 VICE CHAIR SEARLE: 6D. 6D, yes. This is to
14 replace guardrail in Coconino County, and as I understand it, is
15 this just for design only?

16 MR. PATANE: Chairman Knight, Board Members, the
17 project consists of guardrail reconstruction along with there's
18 a retaining wall that's part of the project that will be
19 repaired.

20 VICE CHAIR SEARLE: So is this including
21 construction?

22 MR. PATANE: No. We're in the 01D phase, so this
23 funding request is for design only.

24 VICE CHAIR SEARLE: Design only.

25 Explain to me how you need a half million dollars

1 to design the guardrail. I struggle with our design costs
2 anyhow, and it's mind boggling on some of the bigger projects we
3 have, but on -- do we routinely have to design guardrail
4 replacement?

5 MR. PATANE: Well, there is some effort in the
6 design and guardrail replacement, but I believe the majority of
7 this effort for this project is in the retaining wall design.
8 And so in some cases, I'm not totally familiar with the project,
9 but there is some extensive geotech work that needs to be done
10 in order to make sure that we're building the right height and
11 size of the wall.

12 MR. ROEHRICH: So, Mr. Chairman, Mr. Searle, if I
13 could just quick -- looking at the scope, this is an old stretch
14 of guardrail that is uncompliant. So the reason why we go
15 through a design analysis is with the new design standards for
16 the match system that we call it for safety measures, we do have
17 to analyze the situation. We have to do a design. It's pretty
18 straightforward, as Paul said. So I think the majority of the
19 design costs are in the retaining wall design, but there's an
20 analysis that it has to go through.

21 This is a one-source contract. It's not just
22 design. They're also doing the environmental clearance work and
23 any of the preliminary field work that's necessary. Survey and
24 some of the other things. So it's a pretty comprehensive -- one
25 package, and our goal there is to complete it as quickly as

1 possible, get the project under construction and get that
2 stretch of guardrail modernized and the wall repaired and
3 replaced.

4 VICE CHAIR SEARLE: All right. Fair enough.

5 I do struggle with the design costs on most of
6 these projects, and just as -- but let's go to 6E, which is the
7 Safety Circuit Rider Program for '24-'25. Is this a new
8 program?

9 MR. PATANE: Chairman Knight, Board Members,
10 well, this is a new -- it's part of the HSIP program, but it's a
11 new service that we'll be offering to the local communities and
12 our tribal partners, and the intent of the Safety Circuit
13 Program is to help provide technical and support to the
14 different agencies for the objective of reducing crashes along
15 the highways.

16 VICE CHAIR SEARLE: How many people are we
17 talking in this program?

18 MR. PATANE: You know, I would figure no more
19 than two or three to manage the program, but the intent is to do
20 outreach and work with the local agencies in helping them to
21 identify and come up with different countermeasures at high
22 crash locations. It provides -- we'll work with field staff to
23 implement low cost safety countermeasures along the various
24 locations that we're asked to evaluate.

25 VICE CHAIR SEARLE: How have we been doing this

1 in the past?

2 MR. PATANE: We really haven't - that's, I think,
3 the intent of the program is to provide more outreach to the --
4 to the local agencies, as far as resources.

5 DIRECTOR TOTH: Chairman, Mr. Searle, Paul's
6 absolutely correct. We've had some difficulty in getting the
7 local jurisdictions to be able to deliver their HSIP, their
8 Highway Safety Improvement Program projects. So we did a
9 continuous improvement process to kind of get to what's the root
10 cause, and we found that the root cause is really the quality of
11 the application up front and understanding what the project is.

12 So this is dedicated to help the local
13 jurisdictions so that we can improve the quality of the HSIP
14 applications coming in, and so it's the up front to be able to
15 deliver in a quicker time frame the safety projects.

16 VICE CHAIR SEARLE: This is -- this item is being
17 funded through the -- the Highway Safety Program; is that
18 correct?

19 DIRECTOR TOTH: Correct. It's the --

20 VICE CHAIR SEARLE: All right.

21 DIRECTOR TOTH: Yeah. 94.3 percent is federal
22 funds.

23 VICE CHAIR SEARLE: Right. So is this an ongoing
24 funding? I mean, what happens when this funding goes away?

25 DIRECTOR TOTH: The HSIP program has been around

1 for many, many, many years.

2 VICE CHAIR SEARLE: Okay.

3 DIRECTOR TOTH: I don't see that going away from
4 the federal side.

5 VICE CHAIR SEARLE: All right. Thank you. Those
6 are my questions.

7 MR. ROEHRICH: Thank you, Mr. Searle.

8 So, Mr. Chairman, real quick, Board Member
9 Maxwell had his hand up. I don't know if he had a comment he
10 wanted to make.

11 CHAIRMAN KNIGHT: Beard Member Maxwell.

12 MR. MAXWELL: Yeah. Mr. Chair -- thank you,
13 Floyd. Yeah. I had my hand up, but Richard asked the question
14 there at the end. It was about -- I noticed the state match was
15 only 28,000 on this, and I was curious about how the funding and
16 where it was coming from for the HSIP program, and the question
17 got answered. Thank you.

18 CHAIRMAN KNIGHT: Thank you, Ted.

19 Board Member Thompson.

20 MR. THOMPSON: I believe with the (inaudible), I
21 believe that it's worthwhile moving forward with the project.
22 So I'd like to ask the board members to so support me. So
23 therefore, I'd like to motion that we approve the projects, 6C
24 to 6E, as presented.

25 MS. HOWARD: I'll second.

1 CHAIRMAN KNIGHT: Thank you.

2 I have a motion from Board Member Thompson and a
3 second from Board Member Howard to approve Items 6C through 6E
4 as presented.

5 All those in favor signify by saying aye.

6 BOARD MEMBERS: Aye.

7 CHAIRMAN KNIGHT: Any opposed?

8 VICE CHAIR SEARLE: I would like to be opposed,
9 but I'll go ahead and vote aye.

10 CHAIRMAN KNIGHT: Thank you.

11 Floyd, would you go ahead and poll our virtual
12 members?

13 MR. ROEHRICH: Board Member Daniels.

14 MS. DANIELS: Aye.

15 MR. ROEHRICH: Board Member Meck.

16 MR. MECK: Aye.

17 MR. ROEHRICH: Board Member Maxwell.

18 MR. MAXWELL: Aye.

19 MR. ROEHRICH: Mr. Chairman, the motion carries.

20 CHAIRMAN KNIGHT: Thank you, Floyd.

21 We'll move on to Item Number 7, which is the AZ
22 SMART Funds, and Paul's going to present that.

23 MR. PATANE: Chairman, Chairman Knight, Board
24 Members, today we have three SMART -- AZ SMART applications to
25 present to you today for consideration of approval. Just real

1 quick on -- just going over the eligible uses. We can use AZ
2 SMART to reimburse up to 50 percent of grant development. We
3 can use the funding for match for a federal grant or we can use
4 the AZ SMART for reimbursement for design and other engineering
5 services.

6 So for today's three applications, they'll be
7 using the grant programs as far as the RAISE grant, the
8 Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program grant, along with the
9 Rural Surface Transportation grant program.

10 The first application is from Santa Cruz County.
11 The County's requesting both design and grant development
12 funding, as shown -- as shown in the slide. The AZ SMART
13 funding would be used to continue the -- or begin the final
14 design of the Ruby Road TI and the Rio Rico area there as
15 mentioned earlier. The improvements will help as far as
16 mobility and regional connectivity within the region by
17 improving traffic circulation. The applicant is requesting ADOT
18 to administer their project, and they will be pursuing in the
19 future a 2025 RAISE grant for final design -- for construction.
20 Excuse me.

21 Any questions on the Santa Cruz County?

22 CHAIRMAN KNIGHT: Questions for Paul on the first
23 application?

24 Floyd, you want -- you want us to --

25 MR. ROEHRICH: So, Mr. Chairman, why not let Paul

1 present all of them in case there's some general questions,
2 something at the end, and then we can ask one, because we do
3 need to approve each one individually by motion?

4 Chairman Knight: Okay.

5 MR. ROEHRICH: But I think, Paul, you're set up,
6 you would like to present all of the applications and asking
7 questions to each one as you go through.

8 MR. PATANE: Yes.

9 CHAIRMAN KNIGHT: Okay. Thank you.

10 MR. PATANE: Yes. Thank you.

11 So next we have the Town of Pima. Excuse me.
12 South Main Street planning and design. The AZ SMART request is
13 for and engineering services. The project will improve safety
14 with bike lanes, sidewalks and turning lane. It will also do
15 some widening along Main Street to help facilitate the
16 development in the area. The applicant intends to be a direct
17 recipient, and the applicant will pursue a 2024 Rural Surface
18 Transportation grant, and the request here is for 367,000 for
19 design and other engineering services.

20 CHAIRMAN KNIGHT: Any questions from the Board on
21 this item?

22 MS. HOWARD: I do have a comment. I'm very
23 excited to see not only Pima, but the smaller communities
24 stepping forward for these grants. I've had quite a few calls
25 with regards to lack of personnel to administer them, and it's

1 just good to see. Pima's down the road from me. It's a
2 so-called bedroom community at the current time, so I'm hoping
3 this will increase and attract more commerce that they need to
4 sustain a little better. So I'm just really excited about all
5 three of them. Thank you, Paul.

6 MR. PATANE: Great. Thank you.

7 CHAIRMAN KNIGHT: Any other comments from the
8 Board?

9 Carry on, Paul.

10 MR. PATANE: So next, we have the Town of Jerome.
11 Their request is for grant development services and design and
12 other engineering. Their request for the design is 219,733, and
13 the request for grant development is \$2,400. The project will
14 help reduce and improve congestion and safety within the region
15 and along with ADA accessibility. The applicant will be
16 pursuing a Reconnecting Communities Pilot Program grant in 2025.

17 CHAIRMAN KNIGHT: Any questions from the Board on
18 the SMART request from Jerome?

19 I too am glad to see some of these smaller
20 communities getting a share of the SMART funds that are
21 available.

22 MR. PATANE: I totally agree, Chairman Knight.
23 That was, you know, the primary intent of the AZ SMART was to
24 help the smaller communities be competitive in their pursuit of
25 federal grants.

1 CHAIRMAN KNIGHT: There -- no other comments --
2 go ahead, Richard.

3 VICE CHAIR SEARLE: Actually, if we're ready to
4 move on, I'd like to start with the Santa Cruz County request.
5 This is a project that I was briefed on four or five years ago,
6 and I'm glad to see Santa Cruz County and Nogales moving forward
7 with this project. The traffic they have on that Ruby Road
8 (inaudible) it's really needed. With the money that the State's
9 already allocated towards it and this grant, hopefully it can
10 move forward. So I would like to make a motion to approve the
11 Santa Cruz County grant application for \$3,250,000.

12 MR. THOMPSON: I'll second the motion.

13 CHAIRMAN KNIGHT: I have a motion from Board
14 Member Searle and a second from Board Member Thompson --

15 MR. ROEHRICH: Mr. Chair.

16 CHAIRMAN KNIGHT: -- to approve the AZ SMART fund
17 application for Santa Cruz County in the amount requested.

18 MR. ROEHRICH: So, Mr. Chairman, you have a hand
19 up from Board Member Maxwell, who'd like to comment.

20 CHAIRMAN KNIGHT: Yes. Board Member Maxwell.

21 MR. MAXWELL: Mr. Chair, thank you. Thank you,
22 Floyd.

23 I completely agree with the Member Searle's
24 comments on this project. One question I do have for Paul on
25 this is normally we are presented with the slide that showed the

1 status of the funds and how much we have left for the remainder
2 of the year and how much has been given under each one of the
3 categories. Do we have access to that update today?

4 MR. PATANE: Chairman Knight, Board Member
5 Maxwell, yeah. I wasn't quite done with the presentation.

6 MR. MAXWELL: Thank you.

7 MR. PATANE: So...

8 CHAIRMAN KNIGHT: Oh, we're moving faster than
9 Paul (inaudible).

10 MR. ROEHRICH: There's nothing wrong with getting
11 out early.

12 MR. PATANE: So if I may, and yes, Board Member
13 Maxwell, we do have that slide with the totals.

14 MR. MAXWELL: I would appreciate seeing that, but
15 I think this will be still quick and easy.

16 MR. PATANE: Yes.

17 MR. ROEHRICH: So, Mr. Chairman, you do have a
18 motion and a second. You can delay the action if you want Paul
19 to get -- continue to get to the slide with the summary or you
20 can action the motion. It's there for your discretion.

21 CHAIRMAN KNIGHT: I'll delay the vote and let
22 Paul finish. Thank you.

23 MR. PATANE: So kind of a summary of what was
24 presented today. Just all the applications have received
25 approval from the PPAC to move forward. The total requested for

1 design and engineering services is 3,787,493, and the total
2 requested for grant development is 52,400. And this is just the
3 ADOT applications, just a summary of each one. We did -- they
4 did receive COG and the MPO required approvals.

5 And as requested, here's the slides showing the
6 totals to date. The yellow line is what's available for the
7 awards. Then you take out what's being presented today and the
8 after approval, the pending requests. The new totals are on the
9 bottom.

10 CHAIRMAN KNIGHT: Any other questions for Paul?

11 I have a motion and a second, and if there is no
12 further discussion, we'll vote. Do I hear any -- anyone from
13 the -- virtually that has anything, any comments?

14 Hearing none, all those in favor of approving the
15 AZ SMART fund application for Santa Cruz County in the amount
16 requested by the applicant, please signify by saying aye.

17 BOARD MEMBERS: Aye.

18 CHAIRMAN KNIGHT: Any opposed?

19 Floyd.

20 MR. ROEHRICH: Board Member Daniels.

21 MS. DANIELS: Aye.

22 MR. ROEHRICH: Board Member Meck.

23 MR. MECK: Aye.

24 MR. ROEHRICH: Board Member Maxwell.

25 MR. MAXWELL: Aye.

1 MR. ROEHRICH: Chairman, the motion carries.

2 CHAIRMAN KNIGHT: Thank you.

3 We'll move on to Item 7B, which is the motion to
4 approve AZ SMART fund application for the Town of Pima in the
5 amount requested. Any discussion or questions on this item?

6 Hearing none, I will entertain a motion.

7 MS. HOWARD: So moved.

8 MR. THOMPSON: Second.

9 CHAIRMAN KNIGHT: I have a motion from Board
10 Member Howard and a second from Board Member Thompson to approve
11 the AZ SMART application for Town of Pima in the amount
12 requested by the applicant.

13 All those in favor signify by saying aye.

14 BOARD MEMBERS: Aye.

15 CHAIRMAN KNIGHT. Any opposed?

16 Floyd.

17 MR. ROEHRICH: I just want to double-check.

18 Board Member Maxwell, you have your hand up. Did you have
19 another comment?

20 MR. MAXWELL: No, I did not. Hand's coming down.

21 MR. ROEHRICH: Thank you.

22 Board Member Daniels.

23 MS. DANIELS: Aye.

24 MR. ROEHRICH: Board Member Meck.

25 MR. MECK: Aye.

1 MR. ROEHRICH: Board Member Maxwell.

2 MR. MAXWELL: Aye.

3 MR. ROEHRICH: Chairman, the motion carries.

4 CHAIRMAN KNIGHT: Thank you, Floyd.

5 And the next item is the AZ SMART fund
6 application for Jerome. Does any board member have a question
7 for Paul regarding that application?

8 Hearing none, I will entertain a motion to
9 approve the AZ SMART fund application for the Jerome in the
10 amount requested by the applicant.

11 VICE CHAIRMAN SEARLE: So moved.

12 MR. THOMPSON: Second.

13 CHAIRMAN KNIGHT: I have a motion from Board
14 Member Searle and a second from Board Member Thompson to approve
15 the AZ SMART fund application for Jerome.

16 All those in favor signify by saying aye.

17 BOARD MEMBERS: Aye.

18 CHAIRMAN KNIGHT: Any opposed?

19 Floyd.

20 MR. ROEHRICH: Board Member Daniels.

21 MS. DANIELS: Aye.

22 MR. ROEHRICH: Board Member Meck.

23 MR. MECK: Aye.

24 MR. ROEHRICH: Board Member Maxwell.

25 MR. MAXWELL: Aye.

1 MR. ROEHRICH: Chairman, the motion carries.

2 CHAIRMAN KNIGHT: Thank you, Floyd.

3 Now we'll move on to Item Number 8, the State
4 Routing Number Committee recommendations with Paul.

5 MR. PATANE: Thank you, Chairman Knight and Board
6 Members. Today, I have the privilege to bring forth to you
7 today a recommendation from our Route Numbering Committee for
8 designation for the North-South Corridor, currently runs from
9 Interstate 10 to US-60. And hopefully you had the opportunity,
10 included in the board packet was a little summary of the -- of
11 the action today, but kind of gave a history of the North-South
12 Corridor along with our recommendation.

13 But just a quick overview of the North-South
14 Corridor. The study area is approximately 50 miles long between
15 Apache Junction, Eloy, and traverses, you know, through central
16 Pinal County. The tier one was completed in 2021, and the
17 purpose of the study, as you can see the shaded area was the
18 corridor identified in the material one document and based on,
19 you know, projected, you know, population growth and employment
20 growth, along with the need to improve regional mobility, along
21 with the necessity to provide access to this area is the reason
22 for the purpose and need, and the tier one was approved and
23 completed and approved with a record of decision in 2021.

24 So our current activities related to the North-
25 South Corridor, we're currently in the process of the tier two

1 document, which this -- the tier two is broken into two phases.
2 The first phase, what we call the northern segment, goes from
3 Arizona Farms to -- north to US-60. We're in the process of
4 narrowing down that -- the corridor. Originally, the tier one
5 identified a 1,500-foot corridor. The tier two document will
6 narrow down the corridor to approximately 400 feet, along with
7 identifying locations for traffic interchanges, and so they
8 were -- just ongoing effort there. We're looking to complete
9 the document in 2026, and things are just, you know, progressing
10 along. And segment two, which would go from Arizona Farms south
11 to I-10, that currently is still in the procurement phase.

12 So one of the -- this slide here shows the -- our
13 Route Numbering Committee. We have an Advisory Committee along
14 with the executive members. The Advisory Committee serves as
15 providing recommendations to the executive members, which the
16 executive members will vote on, and as you can see, you know,
17 one -- on November -- on November 7th, the Route Numbering
18 Committee met, and after some collaboration with the various
19 stakeholders involved at the meeting, the majority of the
20 executive members voted for a designation as State Route 505 as
21 the route number for this corridor.

22 Again, here's the map with the designation, the
23 purple going to North-South segment, going through US-60 to
24 Interstate 10.

25 And I present to you the requested action.

1 CHAIRMAN KNIGHT: Do any of the board members
2 have a question for Paul on this agenda item?

3 In that case, I will entertain a motion to
4 approve the planning designation of the North-South Corridor
5 from Interstate 10 to US-60 as referenced on the map presented
6 by staff as State Route 505.

7 MS. HOWARD: So moved.

8 VICE CHAIR SEARLE: I'll second that.

9 CHAIRMAN KNIGHT: I have a motion from Board
10 Member Howard and a second from Board Member Searle to approve
11 as stated.

12 All those in favor signify by saying aye.

13 BOARD MEMBERS: Aye.

14 CHAIRMAN KNIGHT: Any opposed?

15 Floyd.

16 MR. ROEHRICH: Board Member Daniels.

17 MS. DANIELS: Aye.

18 MR. ROEHRICH: Board Member Meck.

19 MR. MECK: Aye.

20 MR. ROEHRICH: And Board Member Maxwell.

21 MR. MAXWELL: Aye. And I have a follow-up
22 question for Paul (inaudible).

23 MR. ROEHRICH: Okay. Chairman, the motion
24 carries.

25 CHAIRMAN KNIGHT: Thank you.

1 Go ahead, Ted.

2 MR. MAXWELL: Paul, it's good to see this coming
3 forward, these tier twos. The state routing number is
4 important, and obviously the tier two studies are important. Do
5 you have an update on when the progress along the tier twos both
6 for the North-South and for the Sonoran Corridor down south of
7 Tucson?

8 MR. PATANE: As far as the North-South Corridor,
9 the phase two, again, we're still in the procurement phase, and
10 we anticipate, you know, early next year we'll have a decision
11 in the direction we're going to move forward.

12 And as far as the Sonoran Corridor, good timing.
13 We had a -- just a kickoff meeting actually yesterday. It was
14 more internal just with ADOT and the consultant who was selected
15 just to get some roles/responsibilities established, but we're
16 looking to have the official kickoff meeting for the Sonoran
17 Corridor in -- sometime in late winter, January, February time
18 frame.

19 MR. MAXWELL: All right. Thank you, Paul.
20 Appreciate the update. It's good to see those getting
21 (inaudible).

22 MR. PATANE: Yes. Thank you, sir.

23 CHAIRMAN KNIGHT: Any other questions for Paul?

24 Well, we've already approved it, so let's move on
25 to Agenda Item Number 9, the engineer's report with Greg Byres.

1 Give Paul a break.

2 MR. BYRES: Thank you, Chairman, Board Members.

3 So for the state engineer's report, we have 99
4 projects that are currently under construction. We're at
5 \$2.1 billion. We have two projects that were finalized in the
6 month of November worth \$10.7 million, and the -- for the
7 fiscal year to date, we have 25 projects that have been
8 finalized. That is the state engineer's report.

9 CHAIRMAN KNIGHT: Are there any questions from
10 the Board for Greg? Yes.

11 VICE CHAIR SEARLE: Greg, can you give me an
12 update on the 191 overpass on 10?

13 MR. BYRES: So as a matter of fact, I -- give me
14 just a second, because I asked Todd to send it to me.

15 So the -- so the shoofly plans are currently
16 under review by ADOT and should be approved before the first of
17 the year. A traffic control plan has been submitted and should
18 be approved this week -- or this next week. Excuse me. The
19 girders are currently under manufacture. And the look ahead
20 schedule has a contract or should start the shoofly construction
21 around January 8th, with demo on the existing superstructure
22 around the end of January to the first of February. Repair
23 damaged column and pier after the superstructure should be about
24 mid-February. Girders should also arrival in mid-February and
25 placed at that same point in time, probably closer to March.

1 Form and place the deck will occur starting in March, with a
2 project completion in May.

3 VICE CHAIR SEARLE: Thank you, sir.

4 CHAIRMAN KNIGHT: Any other questions for Greg?

5 BOARD MEMBER: (Inaudible.)

6 CHAIRMAN KNIGHT: Okay. Thank you, Greg.

7 We'll move on to agenda Item Number 10, the
8 construction contracts.

9 MR. BYRES: Thank you very much. Mr. Chairman,
10 Board Members, for new construction contracts, thank you very
11 much for approving the consent agenda, where we had three items.
12 I have one more that I will present right now.

13 Right now we're looking at the total difference
14 that we've seen between low bids and State estimates year to
15 date are -- actually for this particular one was 3 million --
16 \$3.3 million, with a year-to-date of \$27.8 million under what
17 our estimates were.

18 CHAIRMAN KNIGHT: So are there any questions?
19 Are there any --

20 MR. BYRES: I'm still going.

21 CHAIRMAN KNIGHT: Go ahead.

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

23 The year-to-date totals that we have, this kind
24 of goes through what we're -- what we've seen here lately. One
25 of the things I'd like to kind of clarify, what we've seen over

1 the last couple of months as far as the cost of materials and
2 the incline that we've seen in the cost of construction overall,
3 it's starting to kind of smooth out a little bit. We're not
4 seeing any large jumps. We're still seeing an increase in the
5 inflation, but it is nowhere near what it was a year ago. So
6 we're starting to see much more stable pricing coming from the
7 contractors. So we're -- as we're doing that, we're getting
8 closer and closer with what we're seeing on a general basis
9 between what we're estimating and what the contractors are
10 bidding out.

11 So for the first item that I have, the one and
12 only item that we have for this month is a pavement preservation
13 project. This is SR-85 from Gila Bend to Range 4 Roadway. The
14 low bid -- oh, by the way, we had three bidders on this project.
15 The low bid was 6,097,000. State's estimate was \$9,234,899, a
16 difference of \$3,137,899, or 34 percent.

17 Some of the biggest differences we saw and
18 probably the largest of these was the -- what the contractors
19 was planning on doing with the millings themselves for the
20 roadway. There was an option given or actually it was -- it
21 wasn't very clear in the specifications as to what to do with
22 those millings. The contractor in this particular case took and
23 decided that he would take and drop those millings off on the
24 shoulders, do shoulder buildup, as well as shoulder
25 stabilization, rather than haul those millings off. So he

1 elected to do that and take and work those shoulders as an
2 alternative to hauling. As such, there was a considerable
3 savings in doing that.

4 One of the other things that we saw was all of
5 the cover material that will be utilized for the project, it's
6 coming from a local supplier, where we were looking at having to
7 haul all that material in.

8 And then the third item that we had that was --
9 the largest of the differences was the cost of asphalt binder,
10 as well as the asphalt mix itself. It was substantially lower
11 than what we had estimated.

12 So after the analysis of the low bid, it appears
13 to be a responsive and responsible bid, and we recommend award
14 to Sunland Asphalt and Construction, LLC.

15 CHAIRMAN KNIGHT: Are there any questions for
16 Greg on this item? Hearing none.

17 Do I have a motion to award Item 10 to Sunland
18 Asphalt and Construction, LLC, as presented?

19 VICE CHAIRMAN SEARLE: So moved.

20 MR. THOMPSON: Second.

21 CHAIRMAN KNIGHT: I have a motion from Board
22 Member Searle and a second from Board Member Thompson to approve
23 Item 10, to award to Sunland Asphalt and Construction, LLC, as
24 presented.

25 All those in favor signify by saying aye.

1 BOARD MEMBERS: Aye.

2 CHAIRMAN KNIGHT: Any opposed?

3 Floyd.

4 MR. ROEHRICH: Board Member Daniels.

5 MS. DANIELS: Aye.

6 MR. ROEHRICH: Board Member Meck.

7 MR. MECK: Aye.

8 MR. ROEHRICH: Board Member Maxwell.

9 MR. MAXWELL: Aye.

10 MR. ROEHRICH: Chairman, the motion carries.

11 CHAIRMAN KNIGHT: Thank you, Greg.

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

13 And if I may, I'd just like to say I'd like to
14 thank you very much for your leadership while you've been on the
15 Board, especially as chairman. Your leadership, your guidance
16 and your integrity is just impeccable, and I'd like to thank you
17 very much for everything that you've done.

18 CHAIRMAN KNIGHT: Thank you, Greg. I certainly
19 appreciate that.

20 So now we'll move on to Item 11. The board
21 meeting and public hearing dates and locations. This will be
22 presented by Floyd.

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

24 Included in your agenda -- I don't have a
25 presentation, but included in your agenda were the dates and

1 locations last month that were approved with the -- with the
2 caveat that the Board asked me to look at some adjustments, and
3 what you'll see in coordination with that is we'd like to go --
4 to now ask the Board to go ahead and designate the February 16th
5 meeting as being held in the city of Douglas as opposed to
6 Bullhead. That will go to city of Douglas. The April 19th
7 meeting will be in the city of Buckeye. And the August 16th
8 meeting, which would have been virtual, will now be held at
9 Graham County complex, which will -- is in Safford, Arizona.

10 So those three locations will be adjusted based
11 upon the approval today by the chairman. So at this point, I'd
12 ask a motion for the Board to approve this new schedule of dates
13 and locations with the modifications as presented.

14 CHAIRMAN KNIGHT: Do I have a motion?

15 MS. HOWARD: Mr. Chair, if I may make a comment?

16 CHAIRMAN KNIGHT: Yes.

17 MS. HOWARD: I'm very excited to have a meeting
18 in Graham, and the reason is it seems due to our meeting
19 locations, we don't hear from all of the districts consistently,
20 and there's so much going on in our state. So I would hope that
21 this next year if we do lack holding meetings in certain
22 districts that we may somehow include them, even if it's
23 remotely to possibly give a report. That would be wonderful.
24 Thank you.

25 And with that, I'll make a motion to approve as

1 well.

2 CHAIRMAN KNIGHT: Okay. And do I have a second?

3 MR. THOMPSON: Second.

4 CHAIRMAN KNIGHT: I have a motion from Board
5 Member Howard, a second from Board Member Thompson to approve
6 the 2024 board meeting and public hearing dates as modified.

7 All those in favor signify by saying aye.

8 BOARD MEMBERS: Aye.

9 CHAIRMAN KNIGHT: Any opposed?

10 Floyd.

11 MR. ROEHRICH: Board Member Daniels.

12 MS. DANIELS: Aye.

13 MR. ROEHRICH: Board Member Meck.

14 MR. MECK: Aye.

15 MR. ROEHRICH: And board Member Maxwell.

16 MR. MAXWELL: Aye.

17 MR. ROEHRICH: Chairman, the motion carries.

18 CHAIRMAN KNIGHT: Thank you.

19 So now we'll move on to Agenda Item Number 12,
20 suggestions, and I'll turn the floor over to Floyd.

21 MR. ROEHRICH: So, Mr. Chairman, we're going to
22 take a little point of privilege here and ask the director to
23 take an opportunity to recognize yourself for the six years of
24 service you had on the Board. You know, it's been pretty
25 selfless. You've been to virtually every meeting, and I don't

1 see your better half here, which is unfortunate -- oh, there she
2 is. There she is. I was going to say, this is one of the times
3 where I think, you know, the board member's spouse has been at
4 every meeting the board member has. It has been a six-year
5 commitment, not just by yourself, but by Bonnie as well. So,
6 you know, when we thank you, obviously we really need to thank
7 the support that you got, and Mrs. Knight, thank you so much.
8 It's been such a pleasure to have not -- got to know you over
9 these six years as well.

10 The Chairman -- Chairman, the director has some
11 words. We've got a few gifts. Unfortunately, since Board
12 Member Meck is -- was unable to be here, and I know that he is
13 ending his term as well, we will be presenting some recognition
14 and some token gifts as well to him in the January meeting in
15 Maricopa. So recognizing you today with the opportunity that we
16 have here in your hometown, and Mayor Meck, we'll be able to
17 recognize him as well next month. So at this point I would ask
18 the director to make some comments, and then we will present you
19 with a few gifts.

20 DIRECTOR TOTH: Thank you.

21 Very -- well, I shouldn't say very excited to say
22 thank you, because I'm also sad to see you leave the Board as
23 well, although we have some transition time.

24 Chairman Knight, you were appointed to the Board
25 in 2018, and you've brought an incredible experience to this

1 board with your background and your years of service, with the
2 Yuma City Council. You've always been very good at listening to
3 the local communities and the members of the public and working
4 with everyone to ensure the good outcomes, a tremendous
5 partnering solution and very collaborative solutions.

6 I also want to recognize that you've been a key
7 member of the Rural Transportation Advocacy Council and have
8 always been a powerful advocate for the rural communities
9 statewide. I know that you always make it a point, it's been
10 said many times, to attend the Transportation Board meetings in
11 person unless everybody's attending virtually, and I really
12 commend you for that. It's such a tremendous opportunity to see
13 the different communities within the state and to be able to
14 meet everyone.

15 And I too want to recognize -- there -- you
16 moved -- recognize Bonnie for serving right alongside your
17 husband. That's just an incredible -- our families make a lot
18 of sacrifices, and we really appreciate that dedication. It
19 helps -- it helps the person in that role, and really appreciate
20 that.

21 So on a personal level, we at ADOT and our staff
22 have enjoyed working with you and just want to thank you for
23 everything you have done. Your contributions have made a
24 tremendous difference, and you've helped empower Arizona's
25 economy while safely connecting people within the state. So

1 thank you so much for your dedication and your service to the
2 citizens and the transportation system within the state of
3 Arizona.

4 CHAIRMAN KNIGHT: Thank you very much. It's been
5 a sincere pleasure, and six years has gone by so fast. It's
6 hard to believe that it's been that long, but I certainly have
7 enjoyed my position on the Transportation Board.

8 I will say that I think this board has done
9 something that probably very few boards get to do, and that was
10 we were, of course, instrumental in the selection of a new
11 director for the -- for ADOT, and that's something that not too
12 many boards really get to do, and it was our honor to be part of
13 that process, and I think of that as one of the highlights of my
14 six-year tenure.

15 But I'm looking forward to next year and
16 attending -- continuing to attend the meetings as a board member
17 until such time as I've been -- I've had a replacement
18 appointed. So I'll be here until I'm not. Thank you.

19 MR. ROEHRICH: So, Mr. Chairman, we'd like to come
20 up and present you a few awards. I'll announce the awards and
21 then have the director pass them to you, but we'll come up and
22 do that right at your station there.

23 I do want to -- I'll kind of get on this side,
24 and I can hand them over. See if I can -- make sure to get this
25 working.

1 The first presentation we'd like to have --
2 Director, if you want to -- is just a certificate that's signed
3 by all the board members and the director, again, thanking you
4 for the dedicated service that you provided to all of -- all of
5 the state of Arizona and all of ADOT.

6 So the second gift is one you're going to have to
7 trust me on. It's in the mail. So one of the issues we're
8 going to provide is a three-year subscription -- monthly
9 subscription to *Arizona Highways* magazine. It's something we do
10 want to provide to board members. You travel around the state.
11 You've seen many of the things, the local beauty that is in the
12 magazine, but you never get to see it, because you're always
13 there at night or you're here in the meeting. So at least we'll
14 give you a three-year subscription. You'll be able to look at
15 the pictures and go, I was there, but I don't remember that.

16 The second thing we'd like to present you with is
17 a commemorative ADOT pen and pencil set embossed with the ADOT
18 logo for your use. Hopefully you'll be able to use it for many,
19 many years ago to come, or at least until the ink dries up.

20 CHAIRMAN KNIGHT: Thank you.

21 MR. ROEHRICH: And then the last item we have is
22 a little bit more of a little fun item. We always ask the board
23 members -- we give them a commemorative license plate -- and do
24 they have any type of message or comments that you'll have on
25 it, and you had asked for (inaudible) Knight as part of it, and

1 so there's a commemorative copper license plate signifying, you
2 know, Arizona, the significance of copper to the state, but one
3 that hopefully you'll be able to display as --

4 CHAIRMAN KNIGHT: Thank you.

5 MR. ROEHRICH: -- a memento of your time here on
6 the Board. Thank you, sir.

7 CHAIRMAN KNIGHT: Thank you. Thank you. Thank
8 you, Director.

9 MR. ROEHRICH: And then the last thing, we do
10 allow you to keep the gavel, but we want the block back.

11 CHAIRMAN KNIGHT: Okay.

12 MR. ROEHRICH: We use that for the next person.
13 The gavel has been personalized. That is yours.

14 CHAIRMAN KNIGHT: Okay. Thank you.

15 VICE CHAIR SEARLE: So, Floyd, I'd really have
16 been impressed if there was a validation sticker on that plate
17 so he could put it on his vehicle.

18 MR. ROEHRICH: Wouldn't that be nice if we gave
19 you a three-year break on your license?

20 VICE CHAIR SEARLE: No, it's called a permanent,
21 you know.

22 MR. ROEHRICH: We'll look into that.

23 VICE CHAIR SEARLE: Okay. Well, Gary, I think
24 it's my turn. Bonnie and I have been plotting for six months as
25 to what to get you, and it's been a little bit of a challenge,

1 because your local jeweler really wasn't cooperative. But over
2 the year you have kind of led a precedent, and you awarded Jesse
3 Thompson with a -- with a nice pocket watch, engraved, and then
4 as Director Halikowski stepped down, you did it as well, and so
5 we've done the same thing. And we have -- we have gotten you a
6 pocket watch, a gold one, and it's engraved in appreciation.

7 Let me get my glasses on, make sure I can read it
8 right. "In appreciation, Gary Knight, Arizona State
9 Transportation Board, 2018 through 2024, Chairman 2023." And
10 we've all kicked in, and we would like you to take that. We
11 appreciate your leadership.

12 CHAIRMAN KNIGHT: Thank you.

13 VICE CHAIR SEARLE: And Jackie, if you're still
14 online, we have one for you as well, and so you better be at our
15 Maricopa meeting.

16 MR. MECK: I hear you loud and clear. Thank you
17 very much.

18 VICE CHAIR SEARLE: All right. Otherwise, I get
19 to keep it.

20 MR. MECK: That's your option, sir. You have it
21 in your possession.

22 CHAIRMAN KNIGHT: Well, I hope your -- Jackie, I
23 hope your eye surgery goes well. I've had that cataract surgery
24 done myself on both eyes, so it's no -- it's no big deal, and
25 you'll be able to see a lot better when they get done.

1 MR. MECK: I hope so. Thank you very much.

2 CHAIRMAN KNIGHT: Looking forward to awarding you
3 your gifts at the January meeting.

4 MR. MECK: All right. Thank you.

5 CHAIRMAN KNIGHT: And if we have concluded all
6 the business -- oh, would you like --

7 MR. ROEHRICH: Mr. Chairman, if there's any
8 suggestions from board members. I do know that we're tracking,
9 from Mr. Maxwell's request, to talk about some of the issues
10 with the adopt-a-highway and highway litter issues that we deal
11 with, so we're planning that for a future meeting, one of our
12 study sessions.

13 And a reminder that the January meeting in the
14 city of Maricopa is the 12th. It's the second Friday, and
15 within -- and that was adjusted to be compliant with the statute
16 of the Board formulating its new officers, and that's the time
17 where we will make the changes of the chair and vice chair for
18 2024. So reminder, it's Friday, January 12th, City of Maricopa.

19 So that's all that I have, Mr. Chair.

20 MS. HOWARD: Mr. Chair, I do have (inaudible).

21 CHAIRMAN KNIGHT: Thank you. Yes.

22 MS. HOWARD: Is it possible next month that you
23 could bring to us an update on the \$50 million that we allocated
24 for statewide maintenance, just kind of where we are financially
25 and maybe summarize quickly some of the larger projects and more

1 aggressive projects that we completed with those funds? Thank
2 you.

3 CHAIRMAN KNIGHT: Okay. Any other comments from
4 the Board?

5 Well, if there being no further business for this
6 board, we have concluded the agenda for this month's meeting.
7 We're adjourned.

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

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1 STATE OF ARIZONA)
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BE IT KNOWN that the foregoing proceedings were reported by me, TERESA A. WATSON, Registered Merit Reporter, Certified Reporter, Certificate No. 50876, State of Arizona, from an electronic recording and were reduced to written form under my direction; that the foregoing 56 pages constitute a true and accurate transcript of said electronic recording, all done to the best of my skill and ability.

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

DATED at Phoenix, Arizona, this 17th day of February 2024.

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

Adjournment

Chairman Gary Knight adjourned the State Transportation Board Meeting on December 15, 2023.

Meeting adjourned at 10:24a.m. PST.

Not Available for Signature

Gary Knight, Chairman
State Transportation Board

Not Available for Signature

Jennifer Toth, Director
Arizona Department of Transportation